[](http://www.nasa.gov/images/content/376607main_200908050001HQ.jpg)

lori b. garver

Nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Lori Beth Garver began her duties as the deputy administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on July 17, 2009.  
  
As deputy administrator, Garver is NASA's second in command. She works closely with the administrator to provide overall leadership, planning, and policy direction for the agency. Together with the NASA administrator, Garver represents NASA to the Executive Office of the President, Congress, heads of government agencies, international organizations, and external organizations and communities. She also oversees the work of NASA’s functional offices.  
  
A native of Michigan, Garver graduated from Haslett High School in Haslett, Michigan, in 1979 and four years later, in 1983, she earned a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Colorado College. Her focus turned to space when she accepted a job working for Sen. John Glenn from 1983 to 1984. She since has served in a variety of senior roles in the nonprofit, government and commercial sectors.   
  
Garver worked at the newly formed National Space Society from 1984 to 1996, becoming its second executive director in 1987. She served as the society's primary spokesperson, making frequent appearances on national television and regularly testifying on Capitol Hill. During that time, she also earned a master's degree in science, technology and public policy from George Washington University in 1989. After working at NASA from 1996 to 2001, Garver was employed as the vice president of DFI Corporate Services from 2001 to 2003. From January 2001 until her nomination as NASA's deputy administrator, she was a full-time consultant as the president of Capital Space, LLC, and senior advisor for space at the Avascent Group.

Garver has held numerous senior positions in space policy. She was a member of the NASA Advisory Council, a guest lecturer at the International Space University, president and board member of Women in Aerospace, and president of the American Astronautical Society. She lives in Virginia with her husband, David Brandt, and their sons Wesley and Mitchell.

[](http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/gallery/images/behindthescenes/training/html/jsc2009e258436.html)

Jeanette J. Epps

Dr. Epps was selected in July 2009 as 1 of 14 members of the 20th NASA astronaut class. She recently graduated from Astronaut Candidate Training that included scientific and technical briefings, intensive instruction in International Space Station systems, Extravehicular Activity (EVA), robotics, physiological training, T-38 flight training and water and wilderness survival training.

Born in Syracuse, New York, Jeannette enjoys traveling, reading, running, mentoring, scuba diving and family. Jeanette graduated from Thomas J. Corcoran High School, Syracuse, New York in 1988, received a bachelor of science degree in Physics from LeMoyne College in 1992 and master of science degree and doctorate of philosophy degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Maryland in 1994 and 2000, respectively.

As a NASA Fellow during graduate school, Dr. Epps authored several highly referenced journal and conference articles describing her research. Her graduate research involved extensive testing of composite swept-tip beams, comparative analysis of analytical models and experimental data for shape memory alloys and the application of shape memory alloy actuators for tracking helicopter rotor blades. After completing graduate school, Dr. Epps spent more than two years working at Ford Motor Company as a Technical Specialist in the Scientific Research Laboratory. Before leaving Ford, she completed proof-of-concept work on using magnetostrictive actuators to reduce vibrations that enter a vehicle via the suspension control arms, which resulted in a provisional patent. Also while at Ford, Dr. Epps participated in research involving automobile collision location detection and countermeasure systems, which resulted in the granting of a U.S. Patent. In 2002, Dr. Epps joined the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) where she spent more than 7 years working as a Technical Intelligence Officer. She received multiple performance rewards for her work at the CIA.

[](http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/gallery/images/behindthescenes/training/html/jsc2009e228734.html)

G. Reid wiseman

Born in 1975, Wiseman's hometown is Baltimore, Maryland. He is married to the former Carroll Taylor of Virginia Beach, Virginia. They have two daughters.

Wiseman graduated from Dulaney High School, Timonium, Maryland, 1993, and earned a B.S. in Computer and Systems Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, in 1997, and a M.S. in Systems Engineering, from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, 2006.

Wiseman was commissioned through ROTC following graduation from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1997 and reported to Pensacola, Florida, for flight training. He was designated as a Naval Aviator in 1999 and reported to Fighter Squadron 101, Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia, for transition to the F-14 Tomcat. Following his initial training, Wiseman was assigned to Fighter Squadron 31, also at Oceana, and made two deployments to the Middle East, supporting Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. During his second deployment in 2003, he was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Class 125. Following graduation in June 2004, Wiseman was assigned as a Test Pilot and Project Officer at Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Two Three (VX-23) at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland. At VX-23, Wiseman earned his M.S. degree and worked various flight test programs involving the F-35 Lightning II, F-18 weapons separation, Ship Suitability and the T-45 Goshawk. Following his tour at Patuxent River, Wiseman reported to Carrier Air Wing Seventeen as the Strike Operations Officer, where he completed a deployment around South America. From there, he was assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 103, Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia, flying the FA-18F Super Hornet. He was deployed to the Middle East when he was selected for astronaut training.

**SPECIAL HONORS:** Air Medal with Combat V (five awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Combat V (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, various other campaign and service awards.

Wiseman reported to the Johnson Space Center in August 2009 and completed astronaut candidate training in May 2011. He is currently assigned as an International Space Station Capsule Communicator (CAPCOM) at Mission Control in Houston.



Leland D. Melvin

Leland D. Melvin, NASA associate administrator for education, is responsible for the development and implementation of the agency's education programs that strengthen student involvement and public awareness about its scientific goals and missions. In this role, he leads the agency in inspiring interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, through NASA's unique mission, workforce, facilities, research and innovations.   
  
Melvin currently serves on the White House National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education, or CoSTEM. CoSTEM coordinates the STEM education activities and programs for all federal agencies working to unite efforts to foster interest in space, science and technology among the student community worldwide.   
  
Melvin began his NASA career in 1989 as an aerospace research engineer at the agency's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. He entered NASA’s astronaut corps in 1998 and served as a mission specialist operating the robotic arm on two space shuttle missions to the International Space Station: STS-122 in 2008 and STS-129 in 2009.   
  
Melvin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from the University of Richmond, where he also excelled as a wide receiver for the Spiders' football team. He became a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Academic All American and University of Richmond Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee. He was then drafted into the National Football League, or NFL, by the Detroit Lions in 1986 and also spent time with the Dallas Cowboys and the Toronto Argonauts. After injuries sidelined his football career, he returned to academia and earned his Master of Science degree in materials science engineering from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He holds honorary doctorates from Centre College, St Paul's College and Campbellsville University. d Massey has dedicated 20 years of his life working on NASA/JPL missions and projects. He is the manager of NASA's Voyager Interstellar mission and the Ulysses project, a joint mission between NASA and the European Space Agency.

[](http://education.jsc.nasa.gov/pipeline/profile.cfm?uuid=A4AD706D-1143-D611-9907B80628E37751)Leila Pequeno

**Leila Pequeno’s hometown is Pasadena Texas. She attended the Univer**sity of Houston at Clear Lake and earned a B. S. degree in Accounting and Finance. Leila worked at the Johnson Space Center as a student by participating in their student programs. She has worked at JSC since September of 2005 first with the Safety and  Mission Assurance Directorate (NA) and today with the International Space Station Vehicle Office (OB).  Throughout the years, managers and colleagues helped by giving me advice and motivating me to accomplish my own dreams.  Pequeno states that she has become a more confident person, and has gained valuable leadership skills that are indispensable and very hard to obtain in a regular college course.

Pequeno loves that she gets to work with so many different people and she credits that with improving her overall ability to communicate across a diverse work environment. Her favorite memory is watching the Space Shuttle launch during the night.

Her advice to students interested in working for NASA is,

“The most inspiring thing about NASA is the optimistic outlook that everyone (we all) keeps about the future.  My advice is to come ready to learn!  If you are a timid person, you need to work on your communication skills because these play a major role in each team’s success.”

[](http://education.jsc.nasa.gov/pipeline/profile.cfm?uuid=913D4A98-1422-1C6B-80E32A85E39FD1C2)

Alex kanelakos

**Alex Kanelakos grew up in Topeka, Kansas, and attended college at Witchi**ta State University, earning a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering. As a student, Alex participated in the Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program. Alex describes his first experience at JSC:

“Working at Johnson Space Center (JSC) was an unbelievable dream! My first semester as a co-op was awesome. I worked in the Space Vehicle Mockup Facility (SVMF). This building houses all of the full-size mockups of the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. It is by far one of the coolest buildings at NASA JSC! Working in the SVMF, I was able to tour all of the mockups and other equipment in the high-bay area and gain first-hand knowledge of the systems and operations of the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. My tasks included analyzing the schematics and part drawings and assembling installation packets for procedural based labels for the high-fidelity Node 2 mockup, evaluating and updating the current hardware and procedures in the Station Hardware Equipment Laboratory, and researching, developing the drawings, managing, and constructing a Life Science Glovebox mockup that will be used to train astronauts.”

Currently Alex works in DX3: EVA Operations at JSC. He trains crews for EVAs, including training the crew at the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL) which is a giant pool with the ISS and space shuttle in it. He creates procedures for EVAs, including real-time mission support for any failures, and works in Mission Control as a flight controller. He says he loves the unique and varied experiences, from traveling to Italy for work, to being suited up, and diving at the Neutral Buoyancy Lab.  His favorite NASA memories are watching STS-121 launch on July 4, and the flyover formation of the missing man on the remembrance of Columbia/Challenger/ Apollo1 missions.

Kanelakos states this about NASA:

“I believe that NASA is a symbol of our nation’s freedom and desire to pursue the dreams of tomorrow. We stretch the limits and have broad endeavors and goals.”