

National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 to October 15



2018 Theme: Hispanics: One Endless Voice to Enhance Our Traditions

The theme is selected each year by the [National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers](#)

During National Hispanic Heritage Month we recognize the contributions of Hispanic Americans and celebrate their culture and heritage. The observance started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.



Hispanic Profile: **Ellen Ochoa, PhD**

The First Hispanic Woman in Space
Director of NASA Johnson Space Center (2013-2018)



Dr. Ellen Ochoa, Johnson Space Center
Credits: NASA

Dr. Ellen Ochoa, a veteran astronaut, was the 11th director of the Johnson Space Center. She was Johnson Space Center's first Hispanic director, and its second female director. Her previous management roles include Deputy Center Director and Director of Flight Crew Operations.

Ochoa joined NASA in 1988 as a research engineer at Ames Research Center and moved to Johnson Space Center in 1990 when she was selected as an astronaut. She became the first Hispanic woman to go to space when she served on the nine-day STS-56 mission aboard the space shuttle Discovery in 1993. She has flown in space four times, including STS-66, STS-96 and STS-110, logging nearly 1,000 hours in orbit.

Read More: <https://www.nasa.gov/centers/johnson/about/people/orgs/bios/ochoa.html>

Dr. Ochoa will be the [keynote speaker](#) at the [SACNAS](#) conference in San Antonio, TX, October 11-13, 2018.

