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CLYDE FOSTER

Clyde Foster is director of the Equal Opportunity Office at the NASA-George C. Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. In this position, he directs and administers a comprehensive program to assure equal opportunity in the conduct of all operations undertaken by the Center and its contractors. He assumed his current duties in June 1979, after serving about four years as deputy director of the same office.

Born in Birmingham, Ala., November 21, 1931, Foster graduated from Parker High School in Birmingham in 1950 and received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics and chemistry from Alabama A & M University in Normal in 1954. He later did graduate work also at Alabama A & M University.

A science teacher in Dallas County school system near Selma, Ala., from 1956 to 1957, Foster joined the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., in 1957 as a mathematician technician. When the Marshall Center was established July 1, he was among the nucleus of employees who transferred to the new organization. He worked in the Center's Computation Laboratory as a mathematician and instructor being assigned to positions of increasing responsibility. In 1972, soon after the Center's Equal Opportunity Office was created as a staff office reporting to the Center Director, he joined that office and in 1975 was appointed its deputy director.

From 1968 to 1970, Foster was placed on loan from NASA to Alabama A & M University as director of the Computer Science Department to establish a Data Processing Laboratory and an undergraduate degree program in computer science.

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His contributions to local government and his community, in addition to his achievements within the federal government, are numerous. Foster was instrumental in the restoration of the town charter for the near community of Triana, Ala., which had been originally chartered by the state in 1819. He was appointed Triana mayor by the state governor in 1964 and served in that capacity until September 1984, leading the town in major improvements in the area of housing, street and light improvement, employment training, and industrial expansion. In addition, he was appointed in October 1974 to the Alabama Commission of Higher Education by Governor George C. Wallace and reappointed in October 1978 by Governor Fob James. The commission is promoting the attainment of the highest possible quality of collegiate and university education to all people in the State of Alabama.

For his outstanding accomplishments and performance, Foster has received numerous honors and awards, including the following:

- 1969, NASA, Apollo Achievement Award and MSFC Award of Achievement
- 1970, NASA, Fifteen Year Service Award
- 1971, Alpha Kappa Sorority, Dedicated Public Service and Outstanding Leadership Award
- 1971, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Meritorious Service Award
- 1972, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Appreciation for Services Rendered
- 1972, Top of Alabama Regional Council of Government, Appreciation for Outstanding Contribution Toward Growth and Development
- 1972, Citizens of the Triana Community Outstanding and Dedicated Service Award
- 1973, Alabama A & M University, Distinguished Service Award
- 1973, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Birmingham, Ala., Community Service Award
- 1974, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Seventh District Man of the Year Award

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- 1981, Philip A. Hart Award for Significant Contribution Toward Improving Urban and Working Environments

The son of Mrs. James Foster and the late Mr. Foster of Birmingham, he is married to the former Dorothy M. Harris of Madison, Ala. The couple lives in Madison and has five children, Anitra, Edith, Clydis, Byron, and Carla.

The Marshall Center has a leading role in the space program. During the sixties and early seventies, the Center was best known for development of Saturn launch vehicles and Lunar Roving Vehicles for the Apollo program, and for Skylab, the first U.S. space station. The Center has also developed satellite scientific experiments which have returned a wealth of data in astronomy, astrophysics, and other disciplines.

Currently, the Marshall Center is carrying out a large variety of projects ranging from development and production of the propulsion elements of the Space Shuttle, the first reusable space ship, to management of Spacelab Earth-orbital missions, development of the Space Telescope, and other payloads for the Space Shuttle. Also, the Marshall Center is playing a significant role in the Space Station Project with the assignment to define and design pressurized common modules for use as laboratories, living areas, and logistic transport; to design environmental control and propulsive systems; to design systems for equipping the laboratory and logistics modules; and to design accommodations for orbital maneuvering and orbital transfer vehicles which would operate from the Space Station. The Center also conducts basic research in many areas such as space and environmental sciences, chemical propulsion, structures, materials, and electronics.

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