



Dr. Paul K. McConnaughey
Associate Director
Marshall Space Flight Center



Dr. Paul K. McConnaughey is the associate director, technical, supporting the Office of the Center Director at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Named to the position in August 2015, McConnaughey provides expert technical advice and assistance to Marshall Center Director Patrick Scheuermann in support of the entire body of engineering, science and propulsion work conducted at Marshall. He performs special studies; advises and assists in policy review; manages and reports on center-wide metrics; and develops new technical benchmarking strategies. He works closely with senior managers in all these endeavors, ensuring Marshall programs and projects are timely, technically sound and serve the goals and requirements of the agency and the nation.

McConnaughey previously served as the chief engineer in the Exploration Systems Development Division beginning in 2012, where he was the lead technical authority on all technical and engineering matters, while providing the associate administrator for the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate and the deputy associate administrator for Exploration Systems Development with assessments of the impact, effectiveness and efficiency of NASA's exploration systems investments.

He joined Marshall in 1986 as a mathematician in the Systems Dynamics Laboratory. Within three years, he advanced to supervisory positions, including team lead, branch chief and division chief. In 1998, McConnaughey was named NASA deputy manager for the Military Spaceplane Technology Office, where he worked on space vehicle technologies of joint interest to NASA and the U.S. Air Force. He was reassigned as technical assistant to the director of the Engineering Directorate in 1999, where he concurrently served a detail to the Office of the Director of the Space Transportation Directorate.

From 2000 to 2004, McConnaughey was the director of the Engineering Directorate's Structures, Mechanical, and Thermal Department. In 2004, he was reassigned to the position of deputy manager of the Spacecraft and Vehicle Systems Department, directing the research, development, design and integration of state-of-the-art spacecraft and vehicle systems and exploration missions. From 2007 to 2011, he was selected Marshall's chief engineer, overseeing Marshall's Technical Excellence initiative. In 2011, he was named associate director for technical management within the Engineering Directorate.

For his service to NASA, he has received three NASA Exceptional Service Medals, a NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, a Center Director's Commendation and a Certificate of Appreciation. McConnaughey also received the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in 2011, the second-highest award conferred by the president of the United States.

McConnaughey earned his bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in Corvallis, and a master's degree and a doctorate from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

He is married to Angela Jackman, and has three daughters -- Shannon McConnaughey of Seattle, Washington; Kelly McConnaughey of Browning, Montana; and Tracy McConnaughey of Auburn, Alabama.

