

# Paul K. McConnaughey

Deputy Director

Marshall Space Flight Center



Dr. Paul K. McConnaughey is the deputy center director of Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He was appointed to the position in 2018.

McConnaughey shares responsibility for leading one of NASA's largest field installations, with almost 6,000 civil service and contractor personnel, an annual budget of approximately \$2.8 billion, and a broad spectrum of human spaceflight, science and technology development.

Prior to his appointment to deputy director, McConnaughey was associate director, technical, in the Office of the Center Director since August 2015 where he was responsible for ensuring the performance of Marshall's programs and technical activities, with respect to cost, schedule and mission success.

Originally from the Midwest, he earned a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in Corvallis, and a master's degree and doctorate from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. After earning his doctorate, McConnaughey spent three years as a professor of soil physics and mathematics at Mississippi State University in Starkville.

He joined Marshall in 1986 as an engineer in the Systems Dynamics Laboratory, where he advanced quickly through supervisory positions and in 1998 was named the chief of the fluid dynamics division. In 1998, McConnaughey was named NASA's 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. McConnaughey held various leadership positions of increasing responsibility, and in 2007 was selected as Marshall's chief engineer. He then served as the director of System Engineering and Integration and the chief engineer of the Exploration Systems Development Division at NASA Headquarters in Washington where he oversaw the integration of the Space Launch System, Orion spacecraft and Ground Support Development and Operations programs.

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. McConnaughey has three daughters -- Shannon of Seattle, Washington; Kelly of Browning, Montana; and Tracy of Auburn, Alabama -- and resides in Huntsville, with his wife Angie and their two dogs.