

# Ginger Kerrick – Speech Topics

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## Leadership Lessons from Mission Control

For more than 50 years, NASA's Mission Control has been pulling off miracles on a regular basis. Ginger Kerrick gives audiences an insider's look at the values and culture behind NASA's ability to innovate and keep America's astronauts safe.

With vivid stories from her own years at the helm of Mission Control, Kerrick celebrates the toughness and vigilance of her teams and offers lessons from her own evolution as a leader. Most importantly, she walks audiences through the wave of revitalization in the ranks of NASA leadership responsible for the successes of the past few decades — from the International Space Station and the Mars Rover to the SpaceX Crew Dragon — showing leaders how they can leverage the Mission Control model in their own organizations to chart a course for growth, resilience and excellence.

## She Persisted: A STEM Journey

Growing up in El Paso, Texas, in the 1980's, Ginger Kerrick wanted to be an astronaut. Despite sometimes overwhelming odds, she blazed her own trail to NASA. At the age of 26, she was finally invited to interview for the astronaut program, only to discover that kidney stones meant a lifetime disqualification.

Kerrick overcame her disappointment and went on to become one of the select few chosen to lead Mission Control as a flight director — and was the first Latina in the agency's history to do so. With vivid stories of her work at the Houston Space Center, Kerrick describes the ability of human space exploration to transcend national and political divisions and improve lives as well as the inspiration that space travel has on future generations to further science, math and technology in job fields across the globe.

Physicist Ginger Kerrick's own story of overcoming odds at an early age inspires, as does her enthusiasm for the remarkable power of STEM education and careers to improve life on — and beyond — our planet.

## Creating Resilient Leaders

The one constant at NASA and in Human Spaceflight is change. Throughout her career at NASA, Ginger Kerrick led teams through multiple changes and challenges — the launch of the International Space Station, the loss of the Columbia, the end of the Shuttle Program, the transition to commercial spaceflight providers such as SpaceX and the startup of NASA's new Artemis campaign heading back to the Moon.

Using these real-world stories, Kerrick provides key focus areas for not only leading people through change but for equipping them with the necessary skills to allow them to emerge as future change agents for your company.