

Linda M. Godwin, Ph.D.

Dr. Godwin is a native of Jackson, Missouri, and received a B. S. degree in Mathematics and Physics from Southeast Missouri State University, and a M. S. and Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Missouri where her research was in low temperature condensed matter physics.

Dr. Godwin joined NASA, at the Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX, in 1980, working in Payload Operations. In this role she supported the development and integration of science missions for the early Space Shuttle Program and served as a flight controller and payloads officer in the ground Mission Control Center for several flights prior to being selected as an astronaut candidate in 1985.

A veteran of four shuttle flights, Dr. Godwin has logged over 915 hours (over 38 days) in space. She flew in space as a mission specialist on STS-37 (1991), which deployed the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory. She was assigned to STS-59, an Earth science mission, as a payload commander. She then was a mission specialist on STS-76 in 1996, which docked to the Russian Space Station MIR. Dr. Godwin participated in a spacewalk to install experiment packages on the Mir station to detect and assess debris and contamination surrounding the space station. On STS-108, launching in December of 2001, a station crew exchange mission, Dr. Godwin used the shuttle's robotic arm to install the Multipurpose Logistics Module (MPLM) onto the station node and she participated in a spacewalk to install thermal blankets on two Beta Gimbal Assemblies at the base of the station's two solar wings.

Dr. Godwin's other assignments during her astronaut career included serving as Deputy Chief of the Astronaut Office, and as Acting Deputy Director, Flight Crew Operations Directorate. Dr. Godwin also served in the Flight Crew Operations Directorate office as a flight crew representative during development of the future Exploration Program prior to her retirement from NASA in August 2010.

Following her NASA career, Dr. Godwin was a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Missouri, in Columbia, Missouri for eight years where she taught physics and astronomy classes and worked with students in undergraduate research in astrophysics. She is currently an emeritus professor of the department and still serves in an adjunct capacity.

Selected Awards:

NASA

- Distinguished Service Medal
- Exceptional Service Medal
- Outstanding Leadership Medal

- Spaceflight medals (4)
- Outstanding Performance Rating
- Sustained Superior performance Award

Other

- Mizzou Homecoming Hall of Fame Inductee, 2018
- Missouri Space Pioneer Award, 2017
- MU Alumni Award, 2005
- MU College of Arts and Science William Francis English Scholar-in-Residence, 1996
- American Astronautical Society- Flight Achievement Award, 1992, 1996
- MU College of Arts and Science Distinguished Alumni Award, 1990
- Southeast Missouri State University Alumni Merit Award, 1990