

**ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ADMINISTRATORS  
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE  
MAY 13, 2015**

**VICTORIA (VICKY) GARCIA**

The young lady being profiled today, Victoria Garcia is an Engineer for NASA. Vicky works at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. She has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech. These are impressive career and academic credentials, yet these are by far not her greatest accomplishment.

Vicky's greatest challenge and consequently greatest accomplishment came at an early age. Her need and ability to overcome her congenital disability is what prepared her to be the extraordinary person she is today. From the time she was a toddler she learned to work hard every day, and that has continued to be her goal and inspiration. She works hard and plays hard. She is a well rounded athlete, having competed in several triathlons, obtained her scuba divers certification and trains in long distance cycling.

She faced challenges in school, in college, and when looking for work. Because of her disability Vicky found it nearly impossible to get called for an interview, and had to avail herself of the services of recruiting agencies and programs established for disabled persons. Knowing full well all she needed was to "get her foot in the door." However, time after time the door was shut in her face, primarily due to ignorance and fear. NASA offered first an internship and discovered her potential, following with a full offer for employment.

Today, Vicky is a systems engineer, developing and reviewing analytical models used for the newest launch vehicle named Space Launch System (SLS) that is currently being built. SLS provides heavy lift for both human spaceflight and cargo payload for Lower Earth Orbit and beyond. She performs analyses and works with different teams to resolve design issues. She is a team leader, a role model and professional mentor to students and professionals alike.

The road she has travelled has not been an easy one, but thanks to her family and her unyielding efforts at being her personal best, she is a true real life hero.

