



Donna Lawson

Legislative Affairs Officer, Retired
NASA Langley Research Center

Donna Lawson recently retired from the position as the legislative affairs officer for NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. Since 2003, she had been responsible for developing and implementing strategies to communicate the value of NASA and Langley's programs to federal, state and local government officials. She earned a master's degree in Technical Communication and Management from Old Dominion University and is a resident of Poquoson, Virginia. She is deeply committed to building advocacy for NASA and maintaining US leadership in aerospace. She collaborates with industry, academia and community leaders on cooperative efforts to raise awareness of the importance of NASA and the aerospace industry to the future and economic vitality of our Nation.

Donna led the annual AeroSpace Day at the Virginia General Assembly and supported regional economic partnerships. She was the primary liaison on NASA-related legislative issues and outreach efforts to numerous organizations, including the Governor's Aerospace Advisory Council and the Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facilities Alliance. Prior to managing NASA Langley's government relations, she led major aerospace advocacy activities and managed regional and national outreach programs for both the Agency and the Center. She began her career at Langley in 1991, as a technical publications editor.

Prior to Donna's career at NASA, she worked at Flight International at PHF for close to 3 years before attending grad school and hiring on at NASA. Starting in customer service at the FBO where there was also an active flight school, she moved up through engineering admin, security, and finally as the facility coordinator overseeing the remodel and expansion into the old PHF airport bldg. It was Flight International's active government contract proposal team that inspired her to return to grad school for a degree in technical writing and management. Other aviation related work included representing NASA at numerous GA airshows and was instrumental in advocating and organizing VIP demos for the AGATE and small aircraft transportation program.