

Ellen Ochoa, MS, PhD

Vice Chair | National Science Board



Ellen Ochoa was the Director of NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX from 2013 until her retirement in May 2018. She became the first Hispanic woman to go to space when she flew on a nine-day mission aboard the shuttle Discovery in 1993. She has flown in space four times, logging nearly 1,000 hours. She currently serves on several boards including as Vice Chair of the National Science Board, as a corporate director, and as chair of the Nomination Evaluation Committee for the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Prior to her NASA career, Dr. Ochoa was a research engineer and holds three patents for optical systems. She received a B.S. in Physics from San Diego State University, and both an M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University. She is honored to have six schools named for her and has been inducted into the

Astronaut Hall of Fame and the California Hall of Fame.