

Orlando, FL, USA July 20 - 25, 2019

## **Keynote Speaker**

## **Dr Wanda Austin**

Interim President, University of Southern California



## Speaking Topic: Interdisciplinary Systems Engineering inspired by da Vinci

**Biography.** Dr. Austin is the former president and chief executive officer of The Aerospace Corporation, a leading architect for the nation's national security space programs. The Aerospace Corporation has nearly 4,000 employees and annual revenues of more than \$850 million. She assumed this position on January 1, 2008 and retired from this position 2016. She is internationally recognized for her work in satellite and payload system acquisition, systems engineering, and system simulation. Austin served on President Obama's Review of Human Spaceflight Plans Committee in 2009, and in 2010 was appointed to the Defense Science Board.

Austin is a fellow of the AIAA, and is a member of the Defense Science Board, the National Academy of Engineering, the International Academy of Astronautics, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She also serves on the Board of Directors of the Space Foundation, and on the Board of Trustees for the University of Southern California and the National Geographic Society.

Among her numerous awards and citations. are the National Intelligence Medallion for Meritorious Service, the Air Force Scroll of Achievement, and the National Reconnaissance Office Gold Medal. In 2010 she received the AIAA von Braun Award for Excellence in Space Program Management, and is a recipient of the 2012 Horatio Alger Award and the 2012 NDIA Peter B. Teets Industry Award.

Austin is committed to inspiring the next generation to study the STEM disciplines and to make science and engineering preferred career choices. Under her guidance, the corporation has undertaken a number of initiatives in support of this goal, including participation in MathCounts, US FIRST Robotics, and Change the Equation. Austin was among the first CEOs to commit to Change the Equation.

**Abstract.** Throughout history, humans have always had a desire to use technology to extend their reach, solve problems and explore the universe. As systems engineers we accomplish impossible tasks that are helping to solve the most complex global problems including leadership.