



## **Dr. Yvonne Pendleton**

### **Astrophysicist**

**Dr. Yvonne Pendleton** is the Director of the Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute. Pendleton joined NASA Ames in July 1979 having earned her Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Under NASA sponsored programs, she obtained a Master's Degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Stanford University (1981) and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of California at Santa Cruz (1987). As a research astrophysicist in the Space Science and Astrobiology Division from 1979-2005, Yvonne published 80 scientific papers and contributed significantly to our understanding of the origin and evolution of organic material in the universe. The goal of her ongoing research program is to understand the composition of the organic material found in the interstellar medium and to investigate the incorporation of the organic material from space into the early Earth environment. She is an elected fellow of the California Academy of Science. Asteroid *7165Pendleton* was named in honor of her research contributions. Pendleton's advice to aspiring astrophysicists, "Don't let anyone talk you out of your passion."

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