



Mike Vanhooser, from Portland, Tennessee, with a BS in Industrial Engineering in May 1980. While at Tech, Mike participated in the Coop program at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Upon graduation, Mike accepted a permanent position with NASA managing design, construction, and installation of facility systems.

From 1985 to 1994, Mike served as a senior systems engineer in the Space Transportation Systems Chief Engineers Office managing requirements development, production verification, systems tests, qualification, integration, and risk management for various propulsion systems. Among his assignments were systems integration and test engineer for the Transfer Orbit Stage (TOS) Upper Stage, launch site integration and test for the Orbital Maneuvering Vehicle (OMV), and serving as pressure suited test subject for neutral buoyancy test evaluating the OMV design for maintainability and EVA contingency operations.

From 1994 to 1999, Mike served as a Project Manager for the International Space Welding Experiment (ISWE), leading an international team of engineers from NASA, private industry, and the Ukraine, in the development and implementation of welding technology involving a complicated extra-vehicular activity (EVA) on the Space Transportation System (STS). This resulted in him receiving the prestigious NASA Silver Snoopy Award, the astronauts' own award for outstanding performance, contributing to flight safety and mission success. Fewer than 1 percent of the space program workforce receive it annually. Mike also served as the Project Manager for the International Space Station Environment Monitoring Package (EMP), collaborating with the European Space Agency and managing the concept study.

In 1999, Mike became the Project Management Team Lead at the National Space Science and Technology Center (NSSTC). As Team Lead, he led a team of Project Managers and engineers for eleven distinct spaceflight experiments and payloads in the space science, earth science, and optics disciplines.

In 2004, Mike was selected as the Deputy Director for Business Development for the Marshall Center. He helped establish the Business Development Office within MSFC and provides strategic focus and capture strategies for Center-wide new business initiatives. He is also a member of the Business Development Team for the Tennessee Valley Corridor Federal Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the Tennessee Valley Corridor as one of the nation's premier science and technology centers for maximum regional economic development and new job creation.

Mike and his wife Teresa, also a Tennessee Tech graduate and member of the ISE Distinguished Alumni Academy, live in Madison, Alabama. They have two daughters, Heather and Holly. Heather is a senior at Bob Jones High School and will be attending Auburn University this fall majoring in pharmacy. Holly is a sophomore also at Bob Jones. Mike is active in the Trinity Baptist Church and as a family they went on a mission trip in 2005 to Anchieta Brazil.