



Nicole Stott, Astronaut (Ret.), DB '87, ERAU Alum and Board of Trustee Member, Artist and Advocate for Science and Art Education

Mrs. Nicole Stott was elected to the Board of Trustees for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in March 2012. She currently serves as chair of the Academic Committee and is a member of the Executive and Flight Safety and Education committees.

After almost 28 years with NASA, Stott retired in June 2015 to pursue her next adventure as an artist and advocate for Sci/Art Education, and a commitment to share her spaceflight experience with others. In addition to her board role with ERAU, she is also a board member for other educational and non-profit organization's (SciArt Exchange; ROOM: The Space Journal for AIRC; AOPA; Manna Energy Foundation; and Geeks Without Frontiers).

Stott earned a B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering at Embry-Riddle's Daytona Beach campus in 1987. In 1992, she earned a M.S. in Engineering Management from the University of Central Florida. After joining NASA in 1988, she held various engineering positions in Space Shuttle Operations at the Kennedy Space Center and Shuttle Training Aircraft Operations at the Johnson Space Center, before her selection for astronaut candidate training in 2000.

In preparation for spaceflight, Nicole spent time training with all of the International Space Station partners at their training facilities around the world. In 2006, she broke and still holds the women's world record for the longest saturation dive of 18 days - having lived and worked on the Aquarius undersea research habitat during a NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) mission.

In 2009, she was a mission specialist on the STS-128 Space Shuttle Discovery mission to the International Space Station (ISS), where she then transitioned to serve as a flight engineer for three months on ISS Expeditions 20 and 21. Among her many duties was a 6 1/2 hour spacewalk and she flew the first robotic capture of a free flying cargo spacecraft.

Stott's second spaceflight — STS-133 in 2011 — made history not only as the Space Shuttle Discovery's final flight, but also as a landmark event for Embry-Riddle. It was the first time two of the University's graduates shared a space mission. Stott and Embry-Riddle

alumnus B. Alvin Drew were crewmembers for the 13-day mission, which included two spacewalks by Drew, under Stott's onboard direction. In addition to Stott and Drew, four other Embry-Riddle alumni are current or former astronauts.

The connection between Stott and Embry-Riddle is strong. She is a frequent speaker at the Embry-Riddle campuses, and is a member of the College of Engineering's Industry Advisory Board. In 2009, she received the Alumni Eagle of Excellence Award. She has also been the guest speaker at the May 2010 and 2015 commencement ceremonies, and was presented with the University's Distinguished Speaker Award.