

Dana Kirchmar, A Rocket Scientist, Lifting Women in Aviation and Aerospace Industries, Episode 266

In This Episode:

- Dana shares her one message for the world
- The different career opportunities in STEM many people have not considered
- The story behind how Dana entered the world of electrical engineering
- Insight into Dana's work on the first classified spaceship mission
- Dana shares the story of when she went to work for a startup aircraft manufacturer, where she designed and built an aircraft from scratch
- Diving deep into personal memories of that transformation she encountered about being released from a career after thirty years
- The realization that she had completely given herself over to her career
- The importance of not defining your whole self-worth by your career
- Dana shares the status of women in aerospace at the leadership level
- A sneak peek into her book that will be released soon

Notable Quotes:

"I actually was able to be in mission control on launch day; one of those people you see in the movies who say go or no go for their system." -Dana Kirchmar

"I got to be on the headphones with the test pilot on the very first day that it flew, which was amazing; there were only thirty-five of us in the company at the time, and it is one of the highlights of my life watching this airplane take off for the first time." -Dana Kirchmar

"My career defined everything about me, and I do not want other young women to have that same thing happen to them thirty years into their career." -Dana Kirchmar

"I was so tied up in who I was, was what I did, or the other way around, what I did was who I was. I am so much more than that." -Dana Kirchmar

"Just because I do not do the job of a rocket scientist anymore does not mean I am not a rocket scientist. That is still part of who I am." -Dana Kirchmar

3 Pearls of Wisdom

1. Do not give so much to your career that you forget to live your life.
2. Ask for what you want.
3. Do not be afraid to take risks.

Resources:

Dana Kirchmar has 35 years' experience in the aerospace/aviation and telecom industries in both domestic and global companies, from entrepreneurial start-ups to Fortune 100 corporations.

Website: <https://www.danakirchmar.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dana.kirchmar>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dkirchmar/>

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/dskirchmar

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/danakirchmar>

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