

Countdown to Your Future

Facilitator Discussion Guide

Overview of Video

Based on a motivational presentation by Dr. Jack Bacon of the National Aeronautics and Space administration (NASA), this video is designed to awaken in students an excitement about the future and the opportunities that will be available to those students who prepare. It is a tool that classroom teachers can use to motivate students to set goals, work hard, take challenging courses and prepare themselves for productive, fulfilling lives in a rapidly changing world.

Introduce the Video

As the world changes rapidly, students must be able to keep pace. Education is the key! Jack Bacon, scientist, lecturer, futurist makes a good case to students for staying in school, graduating and pursuing a post-secondary education in an area that interests them. As you view the video, consider these points:

- What are some examples of changes that Dr. Bacon discusses?
- Why is a college education important?
- Why is it important to have a dream for your future?

View the Video (15 minutes)

Discuss the Video

- What are some of the technological changes that are mentioned in the video? How did these changes affect Dr. Bacon's grandfather's life? His father's life? His life? What are some of the technological changes you have you are seeing in your life?
- The bar graph used in the video shows that most of the US population attains only a high school education. According to Dr. Bacon, which segment of the population will have a greater involvement in shaping the future? Which level of education do you aspire to reach? Have you set your expectations high enough?
- What is your dream for your future career? What steps are you currently taking toward making that dream come true?

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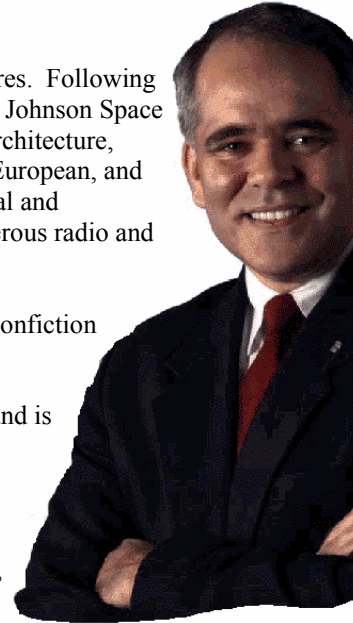
Interviewee Bio Sheet

Jack Bacon Ph.D., P.Eng.

Jack Bacon is an expert in space craft integration, and aerospace system architectures. Following an extensive career at the forefront of technology, he currently works at the NASA Johnson Space Center. His duties at NASA have included several assignments in the integrated architecture, design, and operations of the Shuttle and all systems in the US, Russia, Japanese, European, and Canadian elements of the International Space Station. He has presented educational and motivational topics on all levels to hundreds of worldwide audiences, and on numerous radio and TV events.

He is an award –winning author, whose latest book is *My Grandfathers' Clock*, a nonfiction work which traces the development of technology and society through 28 known generations of his family, dating from medieval times to today's permanent human presence in the cosmos. His next release outlines a vision of the *next* fifty years, and is called: *My Stepdaughter's Watch*.

Dr. Bacon received his BS degree from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in 1976 and his MS and Ph.D. degrees respectively in 1978 and 1984 from the University of Rochester, where he worked on laser-fusion power reactors, fusion propulsion systems, and on microgravity fluid surface. He has recently been recognized with the NASA Outstanding Speaker Award.



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Erika Guillory was born and raised in Beaumont, Texas. She is a graduate of Lamar University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications. She has worked for the space program for approximately six years. Before arriving at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, she was the Producer for *Today-4-Texas*, an NBC affiliate morning news program. In addition to producing, she hosted *To the Point*, a local community affairs radio talk show. Her ultimate dream for the future is to produce and host a television program for students focusing on topics and issues affecting their lives. Her motto: Never Give Up!



Louis Malone II, Computer Engineer

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Louis Malone II is from Savannah Georgia where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics degree from Savannah State University. He then received a Computer Science degree from the University of Houston-Downtown and went on to Tennessee Technological University where he earned an M.S. in Mathematics. He is married to his college sweetheart and a proud father. He plans to continue his education in Computer Engineering or Law. He has recently transitioned from a Co-op position to working full time at the DV4/SSTF-Space Station Training Facility in the Project Office as the SSTF Operations Lead (NASA) and hopes to become an Astronaut.