

'Faces of Physics Speaker': May 12, 7 p.m. Dr. Bob Lutz - NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), Greenbelt, Maryland, Followed by a Q&A. Free and open to all. Join here: <https://youtu.be/C0dakeA2ByUv>.

Title: “Two Synergetic stories from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) that lead to Mission Success: Technical Excellence: (The Flight Software Sustaining Engineering (FSSE) Task) and Support for Diversity and Inclusion (D&I): (The GSFC Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee (LGBTAC))”.

Abstract: A brief discussion will be centered around NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) and the role of GSFC within NASA. The concept of flight software, and what it is, will be then followed by a definition of Flight Software Sustaining Engineering (FSSE). Our approach to accomplishing our task and the missions we support are then discussed. FSSE pre-launch and post-launch activities for these missions will be presented to provide concrete examples of the type of work FSSE performs. An example of a mission anomaly FSSE resolved, will be provided. The second part of the presentation will present a general discussion of the importance of Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) at GSFC. This will be followed by the story of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee (LGBTAC), how our AC started, results from our ground-breaking personnel climate survey, and the impact this study has made at GSFC, to other NASA Centers and several Federal Agencies.

Bio: Dr. Bob Lutz received a B.S. in Meteorology and Oceanography from New York University, a M.A. in Meteorology and Oceanography from City University of New York; and a M.S. in Meteorology and a PhD. in Geography (Remote Sensing) from the University of Maryland, College Park. Bob has been employed at Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), Maryland for over 39 years as a Contractor and now as a Civil Servant, serving in science and engineering roles. He has alternated between management and technical positions. Bob has served as a Section Manager and Associate Branch Head within GSFC, as well as technically contributing to the design of a field experiment measuring trace gases in the boreal forests of Canada; and supporting the development of ground data systems for NASA research and NOAA operational weather satellites. His present position is providing oversight to the Flight Software Sustaining Engineering (FSSE) task as the Civil Servant Manager, which supports over 16 earth and space science missions, and employs almost 30 staff members. In addition, Bob has been very active in Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) activities at GSFC, being a member of the Engineering Directorate D&I Committee for over 15 years and a founding member of the GSFC Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee (LGBTAC). Bob lives with his partner of 35 years, Brian, in Washington D.C. He was a marathon runner and backpacker, and these days enjoys hiking, camping and especially skiing.