

Learn about a record-breaking astronaut, continue the fun for National Star Wars Day

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Peggy Whitson logs more space hours than any other US astronaut



[Peggy Whitson](#) has broken many space related records before, but most recently she logged her 534th day in space, making her the new record holder for the American astronaut with most hours logged in space. The space industry has provided ample hurdles for women to overcome up to this point. Recently, those barriers have been shattered by increased visibility of women involved with NASA. [Hidden Figures](#), the ["Women of NASA" LEGO set](#), and now Peggy Whitson's new record have all helped break down the pre-existing stereotypes and accelerate women in STEM. [Visit here to learn more about Peggy Whitson's accomplishments.](#)

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Just Another Reason to be an Engineer

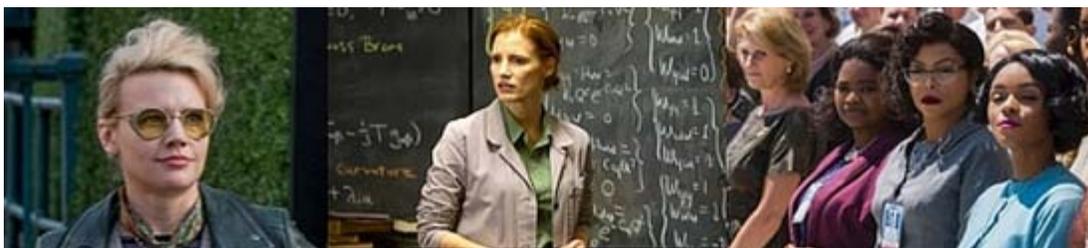
If there weren't already enough reasons to become an engineer here is another engineering design project that is shaping the future of our world. [MIT recently released the video](#) showing a structure being built by a robotic 3D printing arm. MIT hopes that their new technology will be used not only on Earth for cheap construction options but also in space in future missions.

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SWENext Social Media Challenge

[National Star Wars Day was May 4th!](#) Star Wars has always been known for capturing the spirit of innovation with its spaceships and cool tech. For this month's social media challenge we want you to post a picture of your favorite female innovator/engineer seen on the big screen. This challenge will be a Twitter challenge; be sure to tag @SWENext in your tweet and use #SWENextTC in order for your post to be entered in

this month's challenge!



To stay in the loop with all that SWENext has to offer, be sure to [follow @SWENext on Twitter](#) and join the SWENext Facebook group.

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### Search for STEMnauts

NASA and Texas Instruments have partnered to sponsor an awesome new contest for groups of middle and high school students to compete for the chance to win an awesome prize pack that includes NASA gear and the all-new Galaxy Grey TI-84 Plus CE calculator. [Visit here for more information.](#)



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### UNITE

UNITE is a pre-college summer program for high school students who are considering careers in STEM. UNITE focuses on engaging students through hands on learning experiences and personal exploration. Students are encouraged to pursue STEM degrees and are exposed to various career paths available to them with a STEM education.



UNITE is a 4-6 week program held at various universities across the country. All students in grades 9-12 are welcome to apply. [Click here to learn more about the UNITE program and the Army Educational Outreach Program \(AEOP\).](#)



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