

# DR. ERIKA HAMDEN

Astrophysicist and motivational speaker



I am on a mission to share the transformative power of failure.

Monumental endeavors are always fraught with challenges and pitfalls. As a pioneering astrophysicist building cutting-edge telescopes, I have endured failure, BIG TIME. But failure teaches growth, knowledge, and resilience. By recognizing failure and facing it, we emerge stronger and can ultimately succeed.

As a speaker, I share the journey of my scientific successes and failures with audiences. I reveal how I build confidence and strength after a crushing blow. I inspire my listeners with the awe of solar system exploration, the thrill of aerospace innovation, and the wonders of the universe. My talks energize any audience interested in the universe, science, and the imperfect art of discovery.



## AUDIENCES

**TED** Ideas worth spreading



**MITRE**

*John Hancock*

**ZEBRA**

**3M**

**VIKING**

**ORACLE**

## TOPICS

### What it Takes to Build a Telescope

This motivational talk highlights Professor Hamden's work in astronomy and telescope technology, with emphasis on overcoming obstacles and working through failures to achieve a goal.

### Confidence, Resilience, and the Power of Failure

Professor Hamden shares the inextricable link between confidence and failure that she has experienced—and how to develop confidence and resilience through small acts of bravery every day.

### The Bizarre World of Ballooning

Professor Hamden shares an insider's view of experiments conducted via balloon platform, an especially maverick niche of scientific inquiry.

## TESTIMONIALS

“The most radical talk at TED 2019. The talk... was not just brave; it was inspiring.”  
—Wired

“Erika left the audience mesmerized by the wonders of the universe and all things related to space.”  
—Susan Hitchcock

“Thank you for delivering such a powerful and personal keynote address. Your point of view on success and failure is so real.”  
—Zebra employee