

Dr. Elizabeth Newton

Director for Space Policy, Center for System Studies University of Alabama in Huntsville



Dr. Newton is the Director for Space Policy in the Center for System Studies at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAHuntsville). She is responsible for developing the Center's policy analysis capability to complement the Center's technical focus on complex, publicly funded engineering programs and their performance for society's benefit.

Dr. Newton brings to her role 20 years of experience in the aerospace and high technology business sectors. Prior to joining the university, Dr. Newton combined her technical and policy knowledge with business acumen to create and lead the strategic planning and integration office at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. She led the development of new tools for analyzing the center's business base, markets and competitive position, and she re-engineered the center's technology investment program. She was the principal in designing and subsequently managing the center's new governance system to foster more integrated, strategic decision-making and accountability, a system which subsequently served as a benchmark for the rest of the agency. In her position, Dr. Newton also oversaw communication strategy and executive communication.

In addition to her experience in the public sector, Dr. Newton was co-founder and vice-president of operations of a high-technology start-up, providing sophisticated transaction, search, and marketing software to consumer technology and financial services companies. She authored the business plan which secured more than \$10 M in angel and series A equity investments, including DeutscheBanc/Alex Brown Ventures' first venture capital investment in the state of Alabama. She created and led the

Operations team, encompassing customer service, production, quality assurance, and information technology, delivering millions of dollars of products and services to high-profile clients such as IBM, Gateway, HP, CDW, Sony, CNET, ADP, and CCBN.

Following the completion of her Ph.D. in physics, Dr. Newton worked as a space scientist for NASA and as a program manager at Dynetics Inc., a contractor supporting the National Missile Defense Program Office. Earlier in her career, Dr. Newton worked

as a policy analyst, first at the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, Switzerland, then at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Flight Projects Office, where the U.S.'s collaborations with the U.S.S.R. in planetary exploration were defined and advanced. While with the federally funded research and development center ANSER, Dr. Newton provided policy analysis for the Office of the President's National Space Council staff, the U.S. Air Force's Space Systems Division, and NASA Headquarters.

Dr. Newton's long-standing community involvement focuses on advancing the availability of educational opportunities to North Alabama's young men and women as well as grade school girls. She is the area chairperson for Cornell University's Alumni Ambassadors Admission Network which reaches out to high school seniors who have applied to Cornell and supplies the admissions office with supplemental information. She serves on the Board of Girls, Inc., a non-profit dedicated to helping girls become *strong, smart, and bold*™ through after-school literacy, enrichment, and mentoring activities. She is an alumna and volunteer for Leadership Huntsville/Madison County, where she is responsible for planning and executing its semi-annual service projects, and she served on the Board of the UAHuntsville Alumni Association. For more than 13 years she has belonged to the Philanthropic Education Organization for women (P.E.O. International) which funds scholarships and loans to women pursuing higher education degrees.

Dr. Newton earned her Bachelor's degree in government from Cornell University as a Phi Beta Kappa, Cornell National Scholar, and Maryland Distinguished Scholar. She earned a certificate in international relations from l'Institut de Hautes Etudes Internationales, Geneva, Switzerland. Her advanced degrees include a Master's degree in political science from the University of California Berkeley, where she was a Congressional Jacob K. Javits Fellow, and Master's and Doctoral degrees in physics from UAHuntsville.