

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Greetings from the Governor

September 8, 2009

It is a great privilege to join with all of those gathered today in recognizing, Dr. Bonnie Dunbar, Washington State Heritage Center's ninth Legacy Project honoree.

The Legacy Project is about more than honoring extraordinary Washingtonians; it is about preserving the accomplishments of men and women who have changed the course of history. In this anniversary year of the moon landing, it is fitting that we recognize our state's only female astronaut, Bonnie Dunbar.

Bonnie and I were college classmates, and I remember her tenacity and resolve. At that time, women didn't become astronauts, but that never discouraged her from pursuing her goals. She knew in her heart that the universe was within reach, and she never let society or anyone else place limitations on her dreams. As you all know, Bonnie fulfilled that dream, and her incredible career has taken her to heights that most of us can only imagine.

My friend, Bonnie, is not only a history-making pioneer, but also a tremendous role model for women and the next generation of young people who aspire to fields in science, technology, engineering, and math. Bonnie's work at the Museum of Flight provides students with an exciting, hands-on learning experience, and I applaud her for investing her time and energy in our future. Each year, boys and girls are challenged to think big, hold fast to their dreams, and pursue their interests with passion and excellence.

Bonnie, thank you for your vision and leadership. You will forever be part of mankind's legacy of exploration, discovery, and innovation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Gregoire".

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor