



Leroy Chiao, Ph.D. Astronaut

Astronaut Leroy Chiao, Ph.D. is an entrepreneur, consultant and public speaker. As a sixteen year old, Dr. Chiao found his first job at a McDonald's restaurant in Walnut Creek, California. While employed there, he learned valuable life lessons, including teamwork, the importance of organization, preparation and execution in accomplishing tasks and the key factors in successful real-world operations. These lessons helped him advance through his careers as an Engineer, Astronaut and beyond. He is currently working with McDonald's Corporation on various opportunities.

Dr. Chiao recently left NASA following a fifteen-year career with the agency. A veteran of four space missions, Dr. Chiao most recently served as Commander of Expedition 10 aboard the International Space Station. He has logged over 229 days in space - over 36 hours of which were spent in Extra-Vehicular Activity (EVA, or spacewalks).

A native English speaker, Dr. Chiao also speaks Russian and Mandarin Chinese. He has flown space missions and worked closely with Russian, Japanese and European astronauts and their affiliated space agencies. Dr. Chiao is uniquely qualified to speak about the United States, Russian, Japanese, European and Chinese Space Programs. A Space Station Commander and fully trained Space Shuttle Mission Specialist, Dr. Chiao is also a fully certified Co-Pilot of the Russian Soyuz spacecraft. He is a specialist in all facets of U.S. and Russian EVA hardware and operations, and is EVA certified in U.S. and Russian spacesuits, tools, and training programs.

Dr. Chiao studied chemical engineering, earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1983. He continued his studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara, earning his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in 1985 and 1987. Prior to joining NASA in 1990, he worked as a research engineer at Hexcel Corporation and then at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.