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## Lab's Williams receives Emerald Honors award

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Rube Williams of Nuclear Design and Risk Analysis (D-5), a nuclear engineer currently on entrepreneurial leave from the Laboratory, won the 2006 Emerald Honors Minorities in Research Science Award in the Community Service and Educational Leadership categories. Williams will be honored at the Minorities in Research Science Conference in September and profiled in Science Spectrum magazine.

"Rube's ability to secure this award demonstrates his outstanding expertise in science, his love for education, and an uncanny ability to make the most complex scientific ideas highly accessible and real world," said Tara Voit of Bioscience (B) Division, co-author of Williams' nomination and member of the African American Diversity Working Group.

Williams is a founder of Jet Learning Laboratory Inc. (JLL), a learning center that provides advanced instruction in mathematics and the various science disciplines to young people with an emphasis on teaching children to become critical thinkers. Since its inception in May of 2004, more than 600 students have come through the doors of JLL.

"Rube inspires gifted children and others by his own multi-faceted vocations and avocations, as he speaks passable Japanese and Russian, is an instrument-rated pilot, and is one of the most experienced people in the country at performing experiments in near-zero gravity conditions aboard NASA KC-135 aircraft," nomination co-author Beverly Neal-Clinton of Applied Physics (X) Division said.

Williams is the only African-American engineer to be nominated from the Lab. Williams holds doctorate, master's and bachelor's degrees in nuclear engineering from Texas A&M University and has published several papers in the areas of adaptive filtering, advanced fission concepts and zero-gravity testing. He also has received research appointments by the Institute of Space and Astronautical Science in Japan and NASA, and community service awards from the YMCA, Boy Scouts of America and Rotary International.

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