

GERALD (JERRY) BLACKBURN

Background



Mr. Blackburn is founder and CEO of **Tinkers Corner LLC** a STEM education resource company in Southern California. He is on the Board of Directors for the City of Downey **Columbia Memorial Space Center Foundation**. He is also the Past President and Executive Advisor of the **Aerospace Legacy Foundation** here in California developing historical preservation and outreach projects.

Gerald is an engineer and was a Project Manager with the **Boeing Space and Communications Corporation**. He was responsible for directing the Advanced Standards and Practices efforts in the Systems Safety and Product Assurance Department at the Huntington Beach Facility. Mr. Blackburn has been in the Aerospace Industry for over 40 years and retired in 2003. His career has spanned the entire manned space program from the **X-15 at North American Aviation to the Apollo, Saturn SII, Space Shuttle and International Space Station Programs**.

During his career on Apollo he worked in quality assurance and as a materials engineer. Thirty five years were spent at the Downey North American/NASA site the home of the Apollo and Space Shuttle spacecrafts.

He is an educator as well as a business leader. His proactive leadership in business and education partnerships is widely known. Gerald has taught at the **California State University in Los Angeles, University of Southern California and Cerritos College**. He has been an active member of several business and education advisory boards and served on the California State Department of Education Advisory Committee for Career Technology Education.

Gerald is also a professional international speaker on the history and programs of the Aerospace Industry of Southern California. He is author of **"Downey's Aerospace History"** by Arcadia Publishing.

Mr. Blackburn has an **MBA from Pepperdine University** and is a native Californian. He enjoys spending time with his seven grandchildren and traveling with his wife Kathy.