

Ms. Danielle Gerstner
Branch Head, Materials for Hypersonic and Advanced Systems Branch
Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division

Ms. Danielle Gerstner serves as the branch head of the Materials for Hypersonic and Advanced Systems Branch at Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division. In this role, Ms. Gerstner is responsible for personnel management, and fulfills a technical capacity as a subject matter expert in ultra-high temperature materials.

Ms. Gerstner has naval materials work experience in research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E), in-service engineering, and problem solving for the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) and Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). From 2007-2011, Ms. Gerstner worked at NAVAIR China Lake in the Materials Engineering Division as a materials engineer. Then, from 2011-2019 she worked at NSWC Carderock Division in the Non-Metallic Materials Branch as a materials engineer in the Ceramics Group while filling the role of acting branch head. In 2019, she became branch head for the newly developed Materials for Advanced Systems and Sensors Branch at NSWC Carderock Division, which was renamed in 2022 as the Materials for Hypersonic and Advanced Systems Branch. She is a recognized senior materials engineering subject-matter expert in ultra-high temperature materials for the following naval weapons systems: Missile Defense Agency (MDA) AEGIS-BMD SM3 Blk. IB, SM3 Blk. IIA, and various defensive and offensive hypersonic vehicles. Her expertise and experience is in ceramics, ceramic matrix composites, and refractory metals and alloys for high speed vehicle thermal protection systems, materials for missile propulsion, leading edges, and vehicle nosetips.

Ms. Gerstner is also the chairperson for NSWC Carderock's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility Employee Resource Group (IDEA ERG). She lead the planning committee for the 21st Century Workforce Leadership in a Diverse Environment Event (LDEE III) that took place at NSWC Carderock on March 1, 2023.

Ms. Gerstner earned her Bachelor of Science degree in materials science and engineering from the University of Nevada Reno in 2006. She is the Conference Chair for the Conference on Composites, Materials and Structures, and is the recipient of the 2022 Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Jr. Award for Diversity and Inclusion.