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Ms. Connell is the Director of the NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System since 1997 and a Research Psychologist for NASA Ames Research Center since 1981. Ms. Connell has participated in numerous studies with domestic and international research teams exploring human factor issues in the aviation environment. Her recent focus is in aviation safety and the application of confidential reporting for safety improvements in numerous domains.

Ms. Connell continues to evaluate aviation incidents on a variety of topics, including pilot/controller communication, emergency medical helicopter operations, aviation maintenance, cabin safety, and technology applications in aviation environments.

Ms. Connell is a Pilot and a Registered Nurse. She is a member of the International Confidential Aviation Safety Systems, Aerospace Medical Association, Human Factors Society, National EMS Pilots Association, Helicopter Association International, Aircraft Owners and Pilot's Association, Experimental Aircraft Association, 99's (Santa Clara Chapter), and other organizations.