Dr. Kimberly M. Cross is a Director of Programs: Integrated Product Team (IPT) for Manufacturing within the Strike Portfolio. In this role, Dr. Cross leads a team of over 400 multi-disciplinary engineers (manufacturing, industrial, quality, and liaison), technicians and business management personnel on the final integration of large-scale components to build military aircraft for the Northrop Grumman Aeronautics Systems Strike division managing profit and loss within ~$500M portfolio.

Dr. Cross started her career at Northrop Grumman in 2015 as a materials engineer within the Survivability Directorate advancing stealth technologies through the development of elastomeric materials and exploration of additive manufacturing technologies as common products on various platforms. During her tenure she held the role of principal investigator over multiple Internal Research & Development efforts increasing technical readiness levels, in addition to building 40+ test articles to evaluate radar cross section performance. In addition to managing a geographically dispersed team of 25+ amongst multiple Northrop Grumman and Remote Sites (El Segundo, CA; Palmdale, CA, Rancho Bernardo, CA; and Alamogordo, New Mexico).

Dr. Kim Cross is a California native from the San Francisco Bay Area. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of California Riverside in chemical engineering with a concentration in chemistry. Additionally, Dr. Cross obtained a Master of Science in chemical engineering from UCLA with a concentration in Semiconductor Manufacturing, and later a doctoral degree in chemical engineering from UCLA specializing in the fabrication of materials with nano-sized features for alternative energy applications.

Dr. Cross is a STEM advocate making time to speak in the community about the numerous opportunities gained from a STEM foundation. Since 2016 she has held the role of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Western Regional Advisory Board Chairperson providing advisement and mentorship to the regional executive leadership; in addition to being the liaison to the various collegiate chapter advisors and deans within universities amongst the 13 states in the region. Additionally, she was recently started the role as the executive sponsor of the African American Task-Force Group Palmdale Site Employee Resource Group which focuses on employee leadership development, retention, and community outreach.

Dr. Cross was the recipient of the Black Engineering of the Year Awards (BEYA) 2019 Most Promising Engineer Industry award. Additionally, she has gained the approval of her peers and colleagues winning multiple Northrop Grumman Research Engineering and Technology Engineers Choice awards: 2017 for Technical Excellence and 2019 for Leadership Excellence. She also was recognized for obtaining a Northrop Grumman Trade Secrete for the development of technology that provides critical mechanical performance parameters for magnetic materials.