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Previously, Dr. Pritchett was on the faculty of the Schools of Aerospace Engineering and of Industrial and Systems Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology from 1997 to 2017, and she also served via the Intergovernmental Personnel Act as Director of NASA's Aviation Safety Program in 2008 and 2009. Her research focuses on the intersection of technology, expert human performance and aerospace operations, with a particular focus on designing to support safety.

Pritchett is currently editor-in-chief of the Journal of Cognitive Engineering and Decision Making. She has received the AIAA Lawrence Sperry Award, the RTCA William Jackson Award and, as a member of the Executive Committee of the Commercial Aviation Safety Team, the 2008 Collier Trophy. She earned her ScD, SM, and SB in aeronautics and astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She chaired the National Research Council Committee examining Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) air traffic controller staffing levels and implications for the FAA Budget, and for implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System, and recently served as a member on other NRC committees reviewing the FAA Certification Research Plan and NASA's astronaut corps.