

K. Renee Horton, PhD



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Dr. K. Renee Horton is an advocate for diversity and inclusion in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), and works diligently in the community for STEM education and STEM outreach. She believes that diversity and inclusion in the workforce provides a dynamic multi-talented group that will draw knowledge from their different cultures, races, backgrounds, and fundamental differences to achieve the most successful results for any organization. Renee currently serves as the Space Launch System (SLS) Lead Metallic/Weld Engineer in the NASA Residential Management Office at the Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) in New Orleans, Louisiana. She has worked for NASA, first as a student from 2009 to 2011, then starting her career as a mechanical test engineer in 2012. In 2014, she was promoted to her current position and in her combined time with NASA, she has received six group achievement awards. As the first African American to earn a PhD in Materials Science with a concentration in Physics from the University of Alabama, Dr. Horton has been a trailblazer in the physics community. She also holds an Electrical Engineering degree with a minor in math from Louisiana State University. Throughout her academic career, Renee has received numerous accolades and awards. She was a NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Graduate Student Research Fellow, a Southern Regional Educational Board Fellow, a Harriet G. Jenkins Pre-Doctoral Fellow, a National Alumni Fellow at the University of Alabama and recipient of the Black Engineer of the Year Trailblazer Award in 2011. Renee recently received a nomination for the Arthur B.C. Walker II Award, which to Katherine Johnson in 2016. In addition to her academic achievements, Dr. Horton serves as President of the National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP 2016) as the second woman to hold the office after Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson in 1983, 33 years previous. Renee serves the physics community abroad as a member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) Women in Physics Working Group, which organizes the triennial Women in Physics (WIP) conferences and in February 2016, she served as a speaker for the First International Women and Girls Day at the United Nations. In March 2017, she served as the opening keynote speaker at the Emerging Research National (ERN) Conference with an audience of approx. 1000 and on the International Women's Day March 8, 2017, as the keynote speaker for the opening session for the program for the promotion of substantive equality at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP), Mexico. Dr. Horton is proud to announce she will be the commencement speaker for the Engineering Division of LSU in May 2017. In her spare time, Renee serves as a motivational speaker, and

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mentor and role model for young adults. She is a proud member of the Slidell Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., as well as the proud mother of three—Eric, Malik and Denise, and Gigi to Gabriel and surrogate Gigi to Addisyn. She is the author of *Sanctum of my Soul*, a book of poetry and is currently working on two new books: *Dr. H explores the universe* and *Dr. H and Her Friend*. Please check out the website <http://www.reneehortonphd.com> to learn more about Renee.

(December 19, 2017)