

"The intersection between your talent and your passion, is your true happiness."

-K. Renee Horton, Ph.D.

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Dr. 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. Dr. Horton 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. In her short career with NASA she has been awarded 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, Dr. Horton has received numerous accolades and awards. She was a NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Graduate Student Research Fellow from 2004 to 2007, a Southern Regional Educational Board Fellow from 2005 to 2008, and a Harriet G. Jenkins Pre-Doctoral Fellow from 2008 to 2011. She was named a National Alumni Fellow at the University of Alabama and received the Black Engineer of the Year Trailblazer Award in 2011.

In addition to her academic achievements, Dr. Horton was recently elected 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. She has previously served on the program committee and as the chair of the Women in Physics Committee for NSBP. Dr. Horton serves the physics community abroad as a member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) Women in Physics Working Group, which organized the triennial Women in Physics (WIP) conferences in Canada, South Africa, Korea, Brazil and France. In the U.S. she has served as the Chair of the Forum on Graduate Student Affairs of the American Physical Society (APS). In February 2016 she served as a speaker for the First International Women and Girls Day at the United Nations.

In her spare time, Dr. Horton serves as a motivational speaker, 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. 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 Friends*. She also enjoys photography and reading.