

Dr. K Renee Horton, an advocate for diversity and inclusion in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), works diligently in the community for STEM education and outreach. Founder of Unapologetically Being, Inc., a nonprofit for advocacy and mentoring in STEM, Renee speaks worldwide and continues to make an impact for both personal and systemic change to change the face of STEM.

Born in Baton Rouge, LA, Renee received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana State University and a Doctoral degree from the University of Alabama in Material Science with a concentration in Physics. Renee is the first African American to receive a Ph.D. in Material Science from the University of Alabama. Renee currently serves as a NASA airworthiness deputy for the Electrified Powertrain Flight Demonstrator project at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center. Throughout her career, Renee has received numerous accolades and awards, including the Black Engineer of the Year Trailblazer Award in 2011, a NASA Space Flight Team Award, and a NASA Center Accommodation Award in 2019.

In 2019, Renee was named a Louisianian of the year and featured in the Louisiana Life magazine. She was among an elite group of nine individuals who stood out in their professions, gave back, and represented what's best about Louisiana. She was inducted into the Louisiana State University Alumni Hall of Distinction and honored with the Gulf Coast Organization Legacy Award in 2021. In 2022, Renee was one of the subjects in Google's global mini documentary on [Black Women Techmakers](#), [Black Like Us](#)'s global mini documentary and in 2024 she was featured in AIP's mini documentary series [We Are Scientist](#). In 2022 she served as an Astro Access Ambassador on the charted Zero G flight.

With a commitment to community service, Renee serves on the board of directors for Lighthouse Louisiana, Families Helping Families NOLA, the New Orleans Charter Science and Math High School, and the African American Women in Physics as the Managing Director of Programs. She is a Founding mentor for the LSU Alumni Mentor Program, the Patti Grace Fellowship, and has served as the Past President of the National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP). She currently holds the honor of being an NSBP Fellow and was inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma as an Honorary member.

Renee is the author of Dr. H Explores the Universe, a children's series; the last release is Dr. H Explores the Universe – A Visit to the Moon in 2021.