

K. Renee Horton, Ph.D.

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. Renee believes in changing the face of STEM. She is the founder of Unapologetically Being, Inc., a nonprofit for advocacy and mentoring in STEM. She is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and is a graduate of Louisiana State University with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering with a minor in Math (2002) and a Ph.D. in Material Science with a concentration in Physics from the University of Alabama (2011), as the first AA to receive this degree.

In her day job, she serves as the NASA Space Launch System (SLS) Metallic/Weld Engineer at Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) in New Orleans. Throughout her academic career, Renee has received numerous accolades and awards including the Black Engineer of the Year Trailblazer Award in 2011.

In 2016, Renee was elected President of the National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP) as the second woman to hold the office. She has served the physics community abroad as a member of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) Women in Physics Working Group and currently serves on several advisory boards dedicated to a more diverse inclusion in physics. In 2017, she was elevated to a Fellow in the NSBP, which is the highest honor bestowed upon a member.

Renee has been an invited speaker for the first International Women and Girls Day at the United Nations, Essence Power Stage, March for Science – New Orleans and recently the LSU Engineering Spring Commencement. She has spoken all over the world including South Africa, Brazil, South Korea, Canada, Mexico and the beautiful Virgin Islands. She is featured in NASA's I am Building SLS, Physics Today, and the LSU Alumni Magazine. She recently graced the cover of the Hearing Health Foundation Magazine, winter edition that can be found online. She is the author of Dr. H Explores the Universe, a children's series, Dr. H and her Friends, and Dr. H Explores the ABCs. Renee recently was named the Silver Anniversary Artie Literature Award winner for 2018 for her published works.

She is a proud member of the Slidell Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., as well as the proud mother of three.