



CAP 2021 VIRTUAL CONGRESS

Plenary Speaker Bio

RENÉE HORTON | NASA

Dr. K. Renee Horton was named a 2019 Louisianian of the year featured in the Louisiana Life magazine. She is honored in a group of nine individuals who stand out in their professions, give back and represent what's best about Louisiana. She 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.

Renee is a compelling and international inspirational speaker who brings her epic personal story, expertise, and incredible personality to each of her award-winning presentations. Renee has spoken all over the world including South Africa, Brazil, South Korea, Canada, Jamaica and Mexico. She has served as an invited speaker for the first International Women and Girls Day at the United Nations, Dow Chemical Black History Speaker, keynote for Festigal Empowerment Luncheon, the National Air and Space Museum, Essence Power Stage, LSU Engineering commencement, numerous youth groups, just to name a few.

She is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana and is a graduate of Louisiana State University and with a Ph.D. in Material Science with a concentration in Physics from the University of Alabama, as the first African American to receive this degree. In her day job, she serves as a NASA Space Launch System (SLS) Quality 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 and in 2018 was inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma, the prestige honor society in physics.

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, from New Orleans Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc, her published works. She is a proud member Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., as well as the proud mother of three and grandmother of two.