

# LANCASTER SCIENCE FACTORY

Lots of  
**FUN**  
to think about.

## BLACK INNOVATORS IN STEM

We are pleased to highlight the biographies of outstanding black innovators in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the Science Factory's Hall of Heroes.



### MAE JEMISON (1956 - )

Mae Jemison is an American engineer, physician, and NASA Astronaut. On September 12, 1992 she became the first African American woman to travel in space as she went into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour.

In addition to her groundbreaking travels in space, Dr. Jemison has a background in both engineering and medical research. She studied

chemical engineering and African-American Studies at Stanford, and went on to earn her medical degree at Cornell. After working as a doctor for several years, she applied to NASA to become an astronaut.

As a child, her parents were supportive of her interest in science, but she did not always see the same support elsewhere. When Jemison told a kindergarten teacher she wanted to be a scientist when she grew up, the teacher assumed she meant she wanted to be a nurse. Seeing a lack of female astronauts during the Apollo missions also frustrated Jemison. She later recalled, "everybody was thrilled about space, but I remember being really really irritated that there were no women astronauts."





She later founded a technology research company and non-profit educational foundation. She has written books for children and appeared on TV, including an episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation.

Jemison is one of LEGO's "Women of NASA" minifigures. The Google Doodle on International Women's Day 2019 featured her quote "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

Mae Jemison has many honorary doctorates, and has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the International Space Hall of Fame.

*This LSF Hall of Heroes plaque is dedicated to those who push boundaries, break barriers, and explore our universe, by Rutter's.*

The Lancaster Science Factory believes that children should be able to see themselves reflected in the STEM pioneers they learn about when they visit. If you or your business would like to sponsor a new plaque to help add more diversity to our walls, please contact Rob Reed at [rreed@tlsf.org](mailto:rreed@tlsf.org).

