

## **BLACK PEOPLE'S HISTORY IN STEM**

My name is Ifeoluwa Akitobi and I am here to tell you about Black people's history in stem.

S.T.E.M stands for Science Technology Engineering and Math. There are lots of Black people who had good records about their involvements, contributions and advancements towards STEM, through researches, discoveries and inventions in their careers and their names are been remembered till today for the good works they have done. Here are the list of some of the inventors:

- Bessie Blount Griffin: In the late 1940s, Bessie Blount was one of a relatively small number of Black physical therapists. She assisted her patients' therapeutic progress by using interpretive dance. Many WWII veterans need physical therapy, and many of them had lost limbs. Blount taught these patients how to use their feet as part of her more creative approaches to care for them. She also received a patent for her creation, the "Portable Receptacle Support," which was a great achievement. A little amount of food was pushed into the patient's mouth using this device which worked by a tube that was inserted into the patient's mouth and the patient biting down on it.
- Vivien Thomas: He was a black American scientist, who was born and raised in New Iberia, Louisiana, United states on August 29, 1910 . Thomas lost his entire savings when a Nashville bank failed, with no financial support for a college education. He later got an opportunity to further his education and took a job as a laboratory technician at Vanderbilt University Medical School. He became a director of Surgical Research Laboratories and mentored a number of African American laboratory technicians as well as Hopkins' first black cardiac resident.
- Nola Hylton: She is a black American oncologist who was born and raised in Mount Vernon, New York, United states in 1957. She had her B.Sc in Chemical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1979, and she obtained her PhD in Applied Physics from Stanford University, California in 1985. She became an oncologist and cancer specialist, a Professor of Radiology and Director of the Breast imaging Research Group at the University of California, San Francisco.
- Frank Greene: Frank Greene was a black American Engineer who was born and raised in Washington, D.C, United States on October 19, 1938. He was known as one of the pioneers of semiconductor technology and paved way for Black Engineers as he helped break the color barrier in Silicon Valley in the 1960s. He served in the United States of

Air Force as an Electronics Officer for four years after he completed his Master's degree. During this time, he helped developed high performance computers for the National Security Agency.

- Alan Emtage: Alan Emtage is a black Canadian Computer Scientist who was born and raised in Barbados, Island, Barbados on November 27, 1964. He was a computer scientist who invented and implemented the first version of Archie, a pre-Web internet search for locating material in public FTP archives. It is widely considered the world's first Internet search engine. He served on advisory panels for the National Science Foundation, the Library of Congress, the Online Computer Library Center and others. Since 1998, he has been a partner at Mediapolis, Inc., a small web development company based in New York City.

Others that are not on my list have done so many great things as well and they are all been acknowledged and remembered for their great work till the moment.

In the light of this, I want to believe my generation can as well make positive impacts in the world, which will always be in memory in the nearest future. By devoting more of our energy and time on the STEM subjects, one can achieve great things and make positive impacts in the society.

Thank you.

*All references are from "Wikipedia".*