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CELEBRATING POWERFUL CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK SCIENTISTS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH RECOGNIZED AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

PHILADELPHIA, PA February 2, 2021—From inspirational pioneers in engineering to courageous trailblazers in space, the Franklin Institute honors and amplifies the influential contributions of Black scientists, innovators, technologists, engineers, mathematicians, and thought leaders—both past and present—with museum programming and weekly live virtual events led by Franklin Institute scientists with special guests.

“The experiences, struggles, and achievements of Black innovators in all areas of STEM are infinite,” said **Darryl Williams, Ph.D., Senior Vice President of Science and Education at The Franklin Institute**. “During Black History Month and every month, it’s critical to highlight the leaders who are creating positive change in their area of expertise and within their communities, inspiring the next generation to add to this legacy of advancement.”

NIGHT SKIES@HOME

Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 7:45PM

Over his forty-year career at The Franklin Institute, Chief Astronomer [Derrick Pitts](#) has inspired millions to look up at the sky and ask why. Pitts launches this extraordinary suite of Black History Month programming on **Thursday, February 4**, with [Night Skies@Home](#) featuring **Gibor Basri, Ph.D.**, whose impactful work to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in astronomy is layered on top of his already remarkable career as an astrophysicist. **Live on [Facebook.com/TheFranklinInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/TheFranklinInstitute)**

COVID-19 UPDATES

Monday, February 8, 2021, at 2:00PM

As Chief Bioscientist, [Dr. Jayatri Das](#) has spent the last ten months delivering frequent updates on the latest developments surrounding the pandemic. Das broadens the [COVID-19 Updates](#) conversation on **Monday, February 8**, and invites the thought leaders of the **Penn Medicine CPUP Committee on Anti-Racism** to discuss vaccine education and access and the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on Black and Brown communities. **Live on [Facebook.com/TheFranklinInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/TheFranklinInstitute)**

FRANKLIN OUTSIDE

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, Time TBD, Guest TBD

As the Franklin Institute’s Environmental Scientist, [Dr. Rachel Valletta](#) explores the intersection of humans and the environment regularly during [Franklin Outside](#). In support of Black History Month, Valletta explores the impact of environmental injustices and why climate change is a racial justice issue. **Live on [Facebook.com/TheFranklinInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/TheFranklinInstitute)**

ENGINEERING FOR GOOD

Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 1:00PM

As Senior Vice President of Science and Education, [Dr. Darryl Williams](#) is charged with leading the team at the heart of delivering the Franklin Institute’s mission of inspiring a passion for learning about science and technology. In this Black History Month edition of [Engineering for](#)

[Good](#) on Tuesday, February 23, Williams, also a chemical engineer, invites the chief technology officer of **Ford Motor Company, Dr. Ken Washington**, for an enlightening conversation about the evolving auto industry and the future of mobility. They will end the conversation by sharing the Black scientists and innovators who inspired them most and why. **Live on [Facebook.com/TheFranklinInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/TheFranklinInstitute)**

A CELEBRATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS IN SCIENCE DISPLAYS

On Display in February at The Franklin Institute

Throughout February, museum guests can learn about the lives and contributions of influential African American achievers in science with new bio-sketch installations within exhibits related to their particular STEM field. The design panels highlight the early inspirations, career paths, and lifelong legacy of some of the brightest minds in science—including Astronaut Guion Bluford and NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson, as well as Chief Astronomer Derrick Pitts and more local Philadelphians currently making waves in the fields of science, technology, mathematics, and medicine.

More details on February programming can be found at the Franklin Institute's website (www.fi.edu), where related [blog posts](#) and other Black History Month content will be shared regularly, as well as on Facebook (www.facebook.com/TheFranklinInstitute), Instagram (www.instagram.com/franklininstitute), Twitter (www.twitter.com/thefranklin), and YouTube ([TheFranklinPhila](https://www.youtube.com/TheFranklinPhila)).

Black History Month programming is presented by **Braskem, the Official Diversity & Inclusion Partner of The Franklin Institute.**

ABOUT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania's most visited museum, it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit www.fi.edu