

# In Celebration of

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Throughout the month of February, Noble's Diversity & Inclusion Council will share some of the great achievements of Black Americans to our country and our world. To learn more about this initiative or to nominate a person for recognition, please contact co-chairs Kelvin Solares and Molly Lang.



## Neil deGrasse Tyson

“ If you want to assert a truth, first make sure it's not just an opinion that you desperately want to be true.

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Information gathered from Wikipedia, <https://innovation.defense.gov/Media/Biographies/Bio-Display/Article/1395886/neil-degrasse-tyson/> and <https://www.startalkradio.net/bio/neil-degrasse-tyson/>

Almost single-handedly, **Neil deGrasse Tyson** has made science fun to those of us who struggled in school with the subject. Yes, he's an expert in the field of **Astrophysics** with a doctorate from Columbia University, and was appointed by President Bush twice to serve on commissions to study the future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry and then to implement U.S. Space Exploration Policy. He's a researcher on star formation, and has written 10 books plus dozens of articles and essays.

He has 19 honorary doctorates and was awarded the **NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal**. He even has an asteroid named after him: 13123 Tyson. But maybe just as important, Tyson was voted **Sexiest Astrophysicist Alive** by *People Magazine*.

Tyson's greatest contribution to our world (and the cosmos) may be that he has made science fun again. As a science communicator, he regularly appears on television, radio, and other media outlets. He's a regular guest of comedian Stephen Colbert on *The Colbert Report*, and has appeared numerous times on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*, *The Rachel Maddow Show* and *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*. His target is everyone who never thought they would—or could—like science.

He helped launch National Geographic's celebrity guest show *StarTalk*, and was interviewed many times on the History Channel science program, *The Universe*. He has participated on NPR's radio quiz show *Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!*, and appeared several times on *Real Time with Bill Maher*.

Before Tyson, the general public really did not have access to developments in the fields of space and astrophysics. By appearing on so many talk shows and speaking to the general public in terms that everyone can understand, he educates both kids and adults in his area of expertise. He continues to be invited back because **he has made space discovery fun and exciting**.