**Inspiring Women List**

**Physics**

**Dr. Fabiola Gianotti** (1960-) is an Italian particle physicist, currently CERN Director-General and the first woman to hold this position. On 4 July 2012 Gianotti announced the discovery of the Higgs boson. Gianotti’s deep understanding of many ATLAS aspects and her leadership were recognized as major factors in the discovery.

**Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson** (1946 -) is an [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [physicist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physicist), and the eighteenth president of [Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rensselaer_Polytechnic_Institute). She received her [Ph.D.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_of_Philosophy) in [nuclear physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_physics) at the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Institute_of_Technology) in 1973, becoming the first [African-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-American) woman to earn a doctorate at MIT and the second African American woman in the US to earn a doctorate in physics.

**Dr. Lise Meitner** (1878 – 1968) was an Austrian-Swedish [physicist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physics) who worked on [radioactivity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radioactivity) and [nuclear physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_physics). Along with Otto Hahn, she led the small group of scientists who first discovered [nuclear fission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_fission) of uranium when it absorbed an extra [neutron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neutron); the results were published in early 1939. While Meitner received many awards, she did not share the Nobel Prize with Otto Hahn.

**Dr. Ocean Mercier** is a New Zealand professor of Ngāti Porou descent specializing in Physics and Māori science. Dr. Mercier uses novel digital technologies to explore how mātauranga Māori and science connect and relate. Dr. Mercier is the first Māori woman to earn a PhD in Physics from Victoria. She also presents a television program on the topic of Māori science and was awared the Cranwell Medal for her science communication efforts. She works to increase recognition of the mana of mātauranga Māori as a sophisticated, mature and rigorous body of wisdom and knowledge which works effectively alongside Western science.

**Dr. Donna Strickland** (1959-) is a Canadian optical physicist and pioneer in the field of pulsed lasers. She received an undergraduate degree from McMaster University, where she was one of three women in a class of 25 in the engineering physics program. In 2018, Dr. Strickland was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics jointly with Gérard Mourou, from France, for their work on generating high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses. This was the first time the Nobel Prize in Physics had been awarded to a woman in 55 years, and for only the third time in its history.

**Dr. Chien-Shung Wu** (1912 – 1997) was a Chinese-American [experimental physicist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Experimental_physicist) who made significant contributions in the field of [nuclear physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_physics). Wu worked on the [Manhattan Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manhattan_Project), where she helped develop the process for separating [uranium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uranium) metal into [uranium-235](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uranium-235) and [uranium-238](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uranium-238) [isotopes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isotope) by [gaseous diffusion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaseous_diffusion). Her colleagues won the Nobel Prize in physics, but she did not.

**Astrophysics**

**Dr. Jocelyn Bell Burnell** (1943-) is a [Northern Irish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People_of_Northern_Ireland) [astrophysicist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Astrophysics). As a postgraduate student, she discovered the first radio [pulsars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulsar) in collaboration with her thesis supervisor [Antony Hewish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antony_Hewish), for which Hewish shared the [Nobel Prize in Physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Physics) with astronomer [Martin Ryle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Ryle). Bell Burnell was excluded, despite having been the first to observe and precisely analyze the pulsars.

**Mary Jackson** (1921 – 2005) was an African American [mathematician](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematician) and [aerospace engineer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aerospace_engineering) at the [National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Advisory_Committee_for_Aeronautics) (NACA), which in 1958 was succeeded by the [National Aeronautics and Space Administration](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA) (NASA). She worked at [Langley Research Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langley_Research_Center) in [Hampton, Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hampton,_Virginia), for most of her career. She started as a [computer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_computer) at the segregated [West Area Computing division](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Area_Computers). She took advanced engineering classes and in 1958 became NASA's first black female engineer

**Dr. Mae Jemison** (1956-) is an American engineer, physician, and NASA astronaut. She became the first [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_Americans) woman to travel in space when she went into orbit aboard the [Space Shuttle Endeavour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle_Endeavour) on September 12, 1992. After medical school and a brief general practice, Jemison served in the [Peace Corps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_Corps) from 1985 until 1987, when she was selected by NASA to join the astronaut corps.

**Katherine Johnson** (1918 -) is an [African-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African-American) mathematician who made contributions to the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States)' [aeronautics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aeronautics) and [space](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space) programs with the early application of digital electronic computers at [NASA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA). Known for accuracy in computerized [celestial navigation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celestial_navigation), she conducted technical work at NASA that spanned decades. During this time, she calculated the trajectories, [launch windows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Launch_window), and emergency back-up return paths for many space flights.

**Dr. Ellen Ochoa** (1958-) was the first Hispanic woman in the world to go into space, serving on a nine-day mission aboard the Discovery shuttle. Dr. Ochoa earned her doctorate at Stanford and performed research at Sania National Laboratories and NASA Ames Research Center, investigating optical systems for automated space exploration. In 2013, Dr. Ochoa became the first Hispanic and the second female director of NASA’s Johnson Space Center.

**Dr. Chanda Prescod-Weinstein** became the 63rd black American woman to ever earn a PhD in physics, from the Perimeter Institute at the University of Waterloo in Canada in 2010. Now, as a theoretical astrophysicist who’s worked at MIT and, more recently, the University of Washington, she is an advocate for black women and non-binary people in STEM.

**Dr. Maria Teresa Ruiz** (1946-) is a Chilean astronomer who discovered Kelu-1, a system of two brown dwarfs in the constellation Hydra. Dr. Ruiz was the first woman to graduate with a degree in astronomy at the University of Chile, the first female scientist to receive a PhD in astrophysics at Princeton University, and the first woman to receive Chile’s National Prize for Exact Sciences.

**Chemistry**

**Alice Ball** (1892 – 1916) was a chemist and the first African American and the first woman to graduate with a M.S. in chemistry from the University of Hawaii. She was also the first female chemistry professor at the university. She developed the first successful treatment for those suffering from Hansen’s disease (leprosy). She died tragically at the age of 24, and was unable to publish her findings. The University of Hawaii did not give Alice Ball credit for nearly ninety years.

**Dr. Asima Chatterjee** (23 September 1917 – 22 November 2006) was an Indian organic chemist noted for her work in the fields of [organic chemistry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organic_chemistry) and [phytomedicine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phytochemistry). She was the first woman to receive a [Doctorate of Science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctorate_of_Science) from an Indian University.

**Dr. Anna J Harrison** (1912 – 1998) was an American organic chemist and a professor of chemistry at Mount Holyoke College. She was the first female President of the American Chemical Society and the recipient of twenty honorary degrees. She conducted secret wartime research during World War II and investigated the structure of organic compounds and their interaction with light.

**Dr. Ruby Hirose** (1904 – 1960) was an American biochemist and bacteriologist (and one of the earliest Japanese American PhDs in the United States). She researched blood clotting and Thrombin, allergies, and cancer.

**Dr. Mona Minkara** was born in Maryland to immigrants from Lebanon. Although she lost her sight as a child, Minkara graduated from [Wellesley College](https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/wellesley-college-2224) in 2009 with a dual degree in chemistry and Middle Eastern studies, received her Ph.D. from the [University of Florida](https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/university-of-florida-1535) and is now a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Minnesota. She also develops educational materials to help sightless students in developing countries learn chemistry.

**Biology**

**Dr. Carolyn Bertozzi** (1966 -) is an American biochemist who works actively with biotechnology startups. She received a [MacArthur "genius" award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MacArthur_Fellowship) at age 33, making her one of the younger scientists to receive this award. In 2010 she was the first woman to receive the prestigious [Lemelson-MIT Prize](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lemelson-MIT_Prize) faculty award.

**Dr. Idelisa Bonelly de Calventi** (1931-) is a Dominican marine biologist who is considered the “mother of marine conservation in the Caribbean”. She was the founder of the study of biology in the Dominican Republic, as well as the founder of the Insitute of Marine Biology and the Dominican Foundation for Marine Research. In 1986 she heled create the first protected area for the humpback whale and her works have been used to inform marine and coastal environmental laws.

**Dr. Laura Boykin** is an American computational biologist who uses genomics and supercomputing to help smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa control whiteflies, which have caused devastation of local cassava crops. Using genetic data to understand the whitefly’s evolution, Boykin’s research has proven important genetic differences in various whitefly species. Boykin also works to equip African scientists with a greater knowledge of genomics and high-performance computing skills to tackle future insect outbreaks.

**Dr. Rosalind Franklin** (1920 - 1958) was an English chemist and X-ray crystallographer who made major contributions to the understanding of the molecular structures of DNA, RNA, viruses, and other materials. Although her works on coal and viruses were appreciated in her lifetime, her contributions to the discovery of the structure of DNA were largely recognized posthumously.

**Dr. Nina Tandon** is an American biomedical engineer. She is the CEO and co-founder of EpiBone, the world’s first company growing bones for skeletal reconstruction. She currently serves as an adjunct professor of Electrical Engineering at [Cooper Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooper_Union) and is a senior fellow at the Lab for Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering at [Columbia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbia_University). She was a 2011 [Ted Fellow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TED_Fellows) and a 2012 senior Ted Fellow. Tandon holds three [patents](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patent). She co-wrote *Super Cells: Building with Biology*.

**Dr. Celina Maria Turchi Martelli** is a [Brazilian](https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brasil)[physician](https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%A9dico) and [scientist](https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cientista) of [Italian](https://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italia) origin who specializes in the epidemiology of infectious diseases. She is currently a researcher at the Aggeu Magalhães Research Center of the Osvaldo Cruz Foundation in Pernambuco.

Nature magazine put Dr. Martelli on the list of the top ten scientists of 2016.

**Dr. Flossie Wong-Staal** (1947-) is a Chinese-American [virologist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virologist) and [molecular biologist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molecular_biologist). She was the first scientist to clone [HIV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HIV) and determine the function of its genes, a major step in proving that HIV is the cause of [AIDS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AIDS). She was co-founder and, after retiring from UCSD, Chief Scientific Officer of [Immusol](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Immusol&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Immusol (page does not exist)), which was renamed iTherX Pharmaceuticals in 2007 when it transitioned to a drug development company focused on [hepatitis C](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hepatitis_C), and where she remains Chief Scientific Officer.

**Geology**

**Dr. Adriana Ocampo** is a Colombian [planetary geologist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planetary_geology) and the Science Program Manager at [NASA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA) Headquarters. Her research contributed to the understanding of the [Chicxulub impact crater](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicxulub_crater). She has led six research expeditions to the Chicxulub impact site. Ocampo and her colleagues also discovered the [Aorounga Crater Chain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aorounga_crater" \o "Aorounga crater) in [Chad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chad) in 1996.

**Lisa Lonefight** (enrolled citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara [MHA] Nation, Dripping Dirt Clan) is a Doctoral Student in Earth Sciences at Montana State University where her research focuses on energy development, Indigenous People and human induced seismicity within the MHA Nation and other Indigenous populations. She serves as the Senior Science Advisor for the MHA Nation (Fort Berthold Reservation

**Dr. Abigail Allwood** is an Australian geologist and astrobiologist. In college, Allwood attempted to major in physics, but struggled with the math and dropped out; she eventually reenrolled, and at age 28 received a degree in geoscience. She went on to pursue a doctorate in earth science, at the Australian Centre for Astrobiology. During her graduate work, she discovered fossilized stromatolites: the earliest evidence of life on earth. In 2014 Dr. Allwood became the first woman to serve as the lead investigator on a NASA Mars mission when it was announced that her “pixl” technology would help the Mars 2020 rover search for evidence of microbial life on Mars.

**Dr. Sudipta Sengupta** is a professor in structural geology in Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India and a trained mountaineer. She is one of the first Indian women to set foot on Antarctica, combining geological field studies with laboratory experiments and theoretical analysies. She has participated in numerous mountaineering expeditions in India and Europe, including an unnamed virgin peak in the Lahaul Region, which they later named Mount Lalona.

**Dr. Alice Wilson** (1881 – 1964) was Canada’s first female geologist. Although she did not finish her studies at Victoria College due to ill health, she was hired by the Mineralogy Division of the University of Toronto Museum. She later completed her degree and was hired permanently as a museum technician at the Geological Survey of Canada. She earned her doctorate in geology in 1929 after being initially denied the necessary time off for years. She was not allowed to participate in fieldwork in remote regions with men, so she conducted her own research at local sites.

**Mathematics**

**Dr. Maryam Mirzakhani** (1977 – 2017) was an [Iranian-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iranian-American) mathematician and a [professor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professor) of [mathematics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematics) at [Stanford University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford_University). She was both the first Iranian and the first woman to be honored with the Fields Medal, the most prestigious award in mathematics. At Harvard she was said to have been "distinguished by ... determination and relentless questioning", despite not being a native English-speaker. She used to take her class notes in [Persian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language).

**Dr.** [**Evelyn Boyd Granville**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evelyn_Boyd_Granville) (1924–) was the second African-American woman in the U.S. to receive a PhD in mathematics. From 1956 to 1960, she worked for IBM on the [Project Vanguard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_Vanguard) and [Project Mercury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_Mercury) space programs, analyzing orbits and developing computer procedures.

**Dr. Dang Thi Oahn, is a** Vietnamese scientist and head of the Division of Science at the Thái Nguyên University of Information and Communications Technology. She has been recognized for her work in developing algorithms that are used to solve problems that are normally too complicated for computers. Her work has helped to improve the accuracy of these methods, typically used for solving problems in fields such as artificial intelligence and computer graphics.

**Sophie Germain** (1776 – 1831), a French mathematician, physicist, and philosopher, was unable to study at the École Polytechnique because she was female. Instead, Germain obtained lecture notes and submitted papers to [Joseph Lagrange](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Louis_Lagrange), a faculty member, under a false name. When he learned she was a woman, he became a mentor. Germain became the first woman to win a prize from the French Academy of Sciences, for work on a theory of elasticity, and her proof of [Fermat’s Last Theorem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fermat%27s_Last_Theorem), though unsuccessful, was used as a foundation for work on the subject well into the twentieth century.

**Dr. Sofia Kovalevskaya** (1850 – 1891) was a Russian mathematician who eventually received a doctorate after writing treatises on partial differential equations, [Abelian integrals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abelian_integral) and Saturn’s rings. Following her husband’s death, Kovalevskaya was appointed lecturer in mathematics at the University of Stockholm and later became the first woman in that region of Europe to receive a full professorship. She continued to make great strides in mathematics, winning the Prix Bordin from the French Academy of Sciences in 1888 for an essay on the rotation of a solid body as well as a prize from the Swedish Academy of Sciences the next year.

**Dr. Emmy Noether** (1882 – 1935) was a German [mathematician](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematician) known for her landmark contributions to [abstract algebra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abstract_algebra) and [theoretical physics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theoretical_physics). After she received her PhD, for a dissertation on a branch of abstract algebra, she was unable to obtain a university position for many years, eventually receiving the title of “unofficial associate professor” at the University of Göttingen, only to lose that in 1933 because she was Jewish. She moved to America and became a lecturer and researcher at Bryn Mawr College and the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. There she developed many of the mathematical foundations for Einstein’s general theory of relativityand madesignificant advances in the field of algebra.

**Computer Science and Tech**

**Adele Goldberg** (1945 -) is a [computer scientist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_scientist) who participated in developing the programming language Smalltalk-80 and various concepts related to [object-oriented programming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Object-oriented_programming) while a researcher at the [Xerox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xerox) [Palo Alto Research Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PARC_(company)) (PARC), in the 1970s. In 1988, Goldberg left PARC to co-found ParcPlace Systems, a company that created development tools for Smalltalk-based applications. She served as ParcPlace Systems's chairwoman and CEO until its 1995 merger with Digitalk.

**Dr. Fei Fei Li** (1976-) is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at [Stanford University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford_University) and the recipient of numerous awards. She is the director of the [Stanford Artificial Intelligence Lab (SAIL)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford_University_centers_and_institutes#Stanford_Artificial_Intelligence_Laboratory) and the Stanford Vision Lab. She works in the areas of [computer vision](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_vision) and [cognitive neuroscience](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cognitive_neuroscience). Her best-known work is the [ImageNet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ImageNet) project, which has revolutionized the field of large-scale visual recognition.

**Grace Hopper** (1906 – 1992) was an American [computer scientist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_scientist) and [United States Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy) [rear admiral](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rear_admiral_(United_States)) One of the first programmers of the [Harvard Mark I](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_Mark_I) computer, she was a pioneer of computer programming who invented one of the first [compiler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compiler) related tools. She popularized the idea of machine-independent programming languages, which led to the development of [COBOL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COBOL), an early [high-level programming language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High-level_programming_language) still in use today.

**Ada Lovelace** (1815 – 1852) was an English [mathematician](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematician) and writer, chiefly known for her work on [Charles Babbage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Babbage)'s proposed mechanical general-purpose computer, the [Analytical Engine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Analytical_Engine). She was the first to recognise that the machine had applications beyond pure calculation, and created the first [algorithm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algorithm) intended to be carried out by such a machine. As a result, she is often regarded as the first to recognise the full potential of a "computing machine" and the first computer [programmer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Programmer).

**Jean Sammet** (1928-2017) was an [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [computer scientist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_scientist) who developed the [FORMAC programming language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FORMAC_programming_language) at IBM in 1962, the first widely used computer language for symbolic manipulation of mathematical formulas. She was also one of the developers of the influential COBOL programming language. She was employed by [Sperry Gyroscope](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sperry_Corporation) from 1955 to 1958 where she supervised the first scientific programming group.

**Megan Smith** (1964-) was the 3rd [Chief Technology Officer of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Technology_Officer_of_the_United_States) (U.S. CTO) and Assistant to the President, serving under President [Barack Obama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barack_Obama). She was previously a vice president at [Google](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google), leading new business development at [Google](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google) for nine years, was general manager of [Google.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google.org), a vice president at [Google[x]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_X) and the former [CEO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CEO) of [Planet Out](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Planet_Out). She serves on the boards of [MIT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIT) and [Vital Voices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vital_Voices), was a member of the [USAID](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Agency_for_International_Development) Advisory Committee on Voluntary Aid and co-founded the [Malala Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malala_Yousafzai).

**Latanya Sweeney** received her PhD in computer science from the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Institute_of_Technology) where she became the first [African American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_American) woman to earn a PhD in computer science from that school. She served as the [Chief Technologist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Technologist) of the [Federal Trade Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Trade_Commission) and has made several contributions to privacy technology. Her best known academic work is on the theory of [k-anonymity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K-anonymity) and she is credited with the observation that "87% of the U.S. population is uniquely identified by date of birth, gender, postal code."

**Dorothy Vaughn** (1910 – 2008) was an African American [mathematician](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematician) and [human computer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_computer) who worked for the [National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Advisory_Committee_for_Aeronautics) (NACA), and [NASA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA), at [Langley Research Center](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langley_Research_Center) in [Hampton, Virginia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hampton,_Virginia). In 1949, she became acting supervisor of the [West Area Computers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Area_Computers), the first African-American woman to supervise a group of staff at the center.