

Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D. Telecommunications Research

National Women's Hall of Fame Inductee, 1998



Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D., the 18th president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was one of the first two African-American women to receive a doctorate in physics in the U.S. and the first to receive a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

While working at Bell Laboratories, Dr. Jackson utilized her extensive knowledge of theoretical physics to foster breakthroughs in telecommunications research. Her research led to inventions such as the portable fax machine, touch-tone telephone, solar cells, fiber optic cables, caller ID, and call waiting.

An advocate for women and minorities in the sciences, Dr. Jackson has been described by Time Magazine as “perhaps the ultimate role model for women in science.”

See the National Women's Hall of Fame <https://www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/shirley-ann-jackson>