



Photo: Indiana University

Dr. Mae Jemison

October 17 –

Mae C. Jemison was born on October 17th in Decatur, Alabama. She graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering while also fulfilling the requirements for bachelor's degree in African and Afro-American studies. She later received her M.D. from Cornell University Medical College.

On June 4, 1987, she became the first African-American woman to be admitted into the astronaut training program. After more than a year of training, she became the first African-American female astronaut. Four years later, on September 12, 1992, Jemison flew into space with six other astronauts aboard the *Endeavour*, becoming the first African-American woman in space.

Jemison now leads **100 Year Starship**, a global initiative to ensure that the capabilities for human travel beyond our solar system to another star exist within the next 100 years. The initiative uses the difficult challenges of human interstellar travel – technical, social and economic – as a springboard to foster transformative innovation to benefit life on Earth.

In September 2016, Indiana University named Dr. Jemison a leader-in-residence at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business to serve as its Poling Chair of Business and Government during the 2016-2017 academic year. The first African-American recipient of the Poling Chair, Jemison has spent her tenure stimulating discussion in the areas of leadership, the critical interactions between the private and public sectors in matters of economic growth, technology research and development, and sustainability. She made periodic trips to the Kelley School in Bloomington and Indianapolis, where she interacted with students and faculty. One of her goals was to help students understand the connections between the physical and social sciences, as well as culture and art, to problem solve and create robust solutions.

- For more information about Dr. Mae Jemison, go to: <https://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/jemison-mc.html>.
- For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

Additional and more detailed references available at the end of Women's History Month

