

Hacking the Stars

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In modern times, the word “hack” has taken new meanings. One of these is to repurpose something in new or creative ways, in order to gain benefit or to cleverly solve a tricky problem. By hacking the stars, Dr. Oluseyi’s research has led to practical innovations in advanced terrestrial technology, as well as to a greater understanding of matter, energy and the universe. Dr. Oluseyi’s personal story of hacking his own “stars” – transforming a life of poverty, struggle and crime to a life of service, honor, and achievement – will be interwoven throughout the talk.

Dr. Hakeem Oluseyi has had a long, distinguished career in academia and scientific research. He is stationed at NASA Headquarters in Washington DC, currently serving as an Astrophysicist and the Space Science Education Lead for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate. He is also a Distinguished Research Professor of Physics and Space Sciences at the Florida Institute of Technology. Dr. Oluseyi has made research contributions across diverse fields, including astrophysics, cosmology, semiconductors, astronomical detectors and instruments, time-domain informatics, ion propulsion, and science education. He has authored over 70 scholarly articles, and six books. He is the inventor of 11 US patents with two patents currently pending. He has received numerous professional honors; they include selection as an MIT Faculty Fellow, a TED Fellow, and a NASA faculty fellow, and induction into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame.

Dr. Oluseyi is also well known for hosting popular science television shows, including “Outrageous Acts of Science”, “How the Universe Works”, “Space’s Deepest Secrets”, and “Strange Evidence”. His scientific reporting has earned him several awards, including a 2018 Emmy Nomination, four Webby Awards, and The National Space Club’s 2018 Communications Award.