

Dr. Hakeem Oluseyi: Reaching the Stars

Dr. Hakeem Oluseyi has shown how determination and passion can lead to incredible achievements in science and technology. His journey was not easy. As a child, he and his mother lived in some of the nation's poorest communities, where schools were often underfunded and lacked resources. Despite these setbacks, he remained curious and determined. His interest in science was sparked by watching "Star Trek" and reading science fiction books.

After high school, Dr. Oluseyi joined the U.S. Navy. He later attended Tougaloo College and earned his Ph.D. in physics from Stanford University. His research has significantly contributed to our knowledge of the sun's atmosphere. He has worked with NASA to develop instruments for space missions and has contributed to technologies related to ultraviolet optics and computer chips.

As a young adult, he changed his name from James Edward Plummer to better reflect his culture, choosing Hakeem ("wise" in Arabic), Muata ("he who speaks the truth" in Swahili), and Oluseyi ("God has done this" in Yoruba). He has shared his story in the book, *A Quantum Life: My Unlikely Journey from the Street to the Stars*. He has also contributed to an award-winning science video game, *ExoTrex*, and a popular science book for young people, *Discovery Spaceopedia*. His accomplishments show that no matter where you start, with hard work and determination, you can reach the stars.

