



NOTE: The information below was gathered to serve as a resource for you and your students. It can be printed out for older students to read and refer to. For younger students, I suggest reading, simplifying and discussing key facts that they can understand and in turn use in their writing.

DR. SHIRLEY ANN JACKSON--Physicist and Nuclear Scientist

Source of information: <https://president.rpi.edu/president-biography>

DATE OF BIRTH: August 5, 1946

HOMETOWN: Washington, DC

EDUCATION: Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT)

EMPLOYMENT: Physicist and now president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: She helped AT&T build circuits as well as design and build semiconductors.

She served as the chairperson on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). She currently serves as the President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York. From 2009-2014 Jackson served on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

AWARDS: In 2014, she was inducted into the US News STEM Leadership Hall of Fame. In 2016, President Barack Obama awarded her the National Medal of Science.

SIMONE BILES--Olympic Gymnast

Source of information: <https://www.biography.com/athlete/simone-biles>

DATE OF BIRTH: March 14, 1997

BIRTH PLACE: Columbus, OH

HOMETOWN: Spring, Texas, She was raised and eventually adopted by her grandparents.

EDUCATION: Homeschooled

EMPLOYMENT: Gymnast/Athlete

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: She won her first US and world all-around titles in 2013. In 2015, she won the world all around for the 3rd time in a row. In 2016, she led the US women's gymnastics team to win the gold medal. She also won gold in the women's individual all-around, vault and floor exercise. She won a bronze in the balance beam. In 2019, she won her 6th world all-around title.

BOOKS: She has her own book titled, Courage to Soar.

MARIO JOVAN SHAW--Teacher

Source of information: <https://echoinggreen.org/fellow/mario-jovan-shaw/>

<https://www.allamericanspeakers.com/celebritytalentbios/Mario+Jovan+Shaw/406308>

EDUCATION: Received a degree from the University of Cincinnati (BA) and a Masters in Education from John Hopkins University.

EMPLOYMENT: Mario co-founded Profound Gentlemen, an organization that finds, and trains black men to become teachers in cities who can also positively impact black male students. Mario is also a motivational speaker.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: He was a 7th Grade Teacher in Charlotte, NC for Teach for America. He created the Brother Hood, a group that focused on helping the black males in his classroom.

AWARDS: He was a 2015 recipient of the Echoing Green Fellowship.

DONNEL BAIRD

Source of information: <https://echoinggreen.org/fellow/donnel-baird/> and <https://bigthink.com/u/donnel-baird>

HOMETOWN: Brooklyn, NY

EDUCATION: He graduated from Duke University and Columbia Business School

EMPLOYMENT: Founder and CEO of BlocPower

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: He was an energy efficient staffer for the Obama administration. In 2013, Donnel launched BlocPower, a business that markets, finances and installs solar energy efficiency technology to help facilities cut down on their energy costs.

AWARDS: He was a 2012 Echoing Green Fellow.

FUN FACT: He's a fan of the New York Knicks!