

Biography

Demetrius D. Venable is Professor of Physics and Chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Howard University. He has held this position since July 1, 1995. He is the Director and Principal Investigator of the "Center for the Study of Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial Atmospheres." From December 1999 through June 2000 he also served as the Interim Associate Provost for Research at Howard University. Recently he has served or continues to serve as Co-Principal on the project "Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate" and "Modernization of An Experimental Physics Course" both funded by the National Science Foundation, as Principal Investigator on the project "Collaboration on Forensic Materials" funded by Mnemonics Systems, Incorporated, as Principal Investigator on the project "Radiation Induced by Local Plasma Injection into a Neutral Atmosphere"; Funded by Central MASINT, and as Project Director of the "Minority Science Improvement Program at Howard University" funded by U.S. Dept. of Education.

Dr. Venable is a native of Powhatan, VA. He attended undergraduate school at Virginia State University where he received the Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics (in 1970). He received both the Master of Science Degree (in 1972) and Doctor of Philosophy Degree (in 1974) in Physics from the American University in Washington, DC.

Prior to coming to Howard, Dr. Venable has held positions at IBM as a senior associate engineer, at Saint Paul's College as an assistant professor of physics and director of the cooperative physics program and at Hampton University where he was professor of physics and held various administrative positions including department chairman, Dean of the Graduate College, Vice President for Research, and Executive Vice President and Provost.

Among Dr. Venable's awards are the American Association of Physics Teacher's Distinguished Service Citation for contributions to teaching in physics and NASA's Distinguished Public Service Medal for contributions to research infrastructure building. This latter award is the highest award that NASA can make to a non-government employee.

He is noted for work in establishing degree programs in physics and engineering and research programs in optical physics. He has served on various boards and committees at the state and national levels including membership on the U. S. Department of Energy's Fusion Energy Advisory Committee, the Hampton University Board of Trustee, and The Board of the National Society of Black Physicists. He has held position of leadership in The American Association of Physics Teachers, The Virginia Academy of Science, The Southeastern Universities Research Association, The Virginia Aerospace Business Roundtable, and The National Physical Sciences Consortium. He is a Charter Fellow of the National Society of Black Physicists, and served on the Board of

Directors for the organization from 1998-2000. He has been recognized in Who's Who in the Science and Engineering, is the recipient of The White House Initiative Science and Technology Advisory Committee's Faculty Award for Excellence in Science and Technology, has received the G. Robert Cotton Distinguished Professorship, has received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award, and was recognized in Outstanding Young Men of America. Dr. Venable served as the Chairman of the American Institute of Physics' Advisory Committee on Education until June 2001.

Dr. Venable's research specialty is in optical physics. He has been awarded funding for more than 20 projects and has had more than 50 professional publications or presentations at professional meetings. His research has involved radiative transfer modeling and remote sensing techniques. His works have included effects of multiple scattering in marine environments, insolation and turbidity measurements, and remote sensing of the atmosphere. He has also done considerable work on laser systems development, particularly the utilization of plasma pinch devices as broadband laser pump sources in the blue-green to near ultra-violet regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. His work in this area has included studies of the optical characteristics of the plasmas produced in these devices. He is currently involved in a project to develop novel techniques for use of ground based lidar to simultaneously measure daytime lower tropospheric ozone and water vapor.