

Christine Mann Darden

(b. 1942)



Christine Mann Darden earned an MS in Applied Mathematics at Virginia State University after graduating from Hampton College with a BS in Mathematics. She obtained a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from George Washington University in 1983. Darden was an aerospace engineer, researcher, data analyst, and leader at NASA's Langley Research Center. She joined NASA in 1967 as a "human computer" and became one of the

first female engineers there, developing the sonic boom research program at NASA. She became the first Black woman promoted into the top rank of the federal civil service at Langley, and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2019. An MAA lecture series is named in her honor.

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