

Carolyn Parker

Carolyn Parker is an inspiring and powerful African American physicist that changed the views of many people's eyes with her actions. She was hard-working and fought against negative criticism to fight for what she was determined to achieve to change history as we know it.

Carolyn Parker inspires me because she was the first African American to receive a graduate degree in physics. This great achievement was a huge step in the acceptance of women of color into mathematics and physics-based programs. Prior to her great breakthrough as a physicist, Parker taught in public schools throughout Virginia, West Virginia, and Florida. In 1943, she was recruited to work on a special project known as the Dayton project. It was a smaller part of an even bigger project, the Manhattan project, gathering information on nuclear weapons to help America win WWII. I would like to meet her because she was one of the very few African American scientists of the Manhattan Project, and one of the only African American women. I would like to ask her how she stuck with such a big dream even with the circumstances of the time that she lived in, and how she felt after leaving such a huge milestone for African Americans. Not only did she die doing her patriotic duty to help the U.S. win the second war, but she also had to overcome the great obstacles of the significant amount of racism and sexism from other White male scientists.

In conclusion, Carolyn Parker was a strong, intelligent woman who allowed other young female women to achieve their dreams, just as she did.