



### *Drexel-SDP GK-12 ACTIVITY*

**Subject Areas:** Physical Science, Technology and Society History of Science

**Activity Title:** Minority Scientists and Inventors in our Time

**Grade Level:** 5 (5–8)

**Time Required:** 1 weeks, 2 classes/week & 1hr per class

**Group Size:** 4-5 students

**Expendable Cost per Group:** \$0.00 USD

**Summary:**

Minority scientist and inventors in history is an integral part of demonstrating the multicultural transformation that has occurred in science. In today's global economy, there are no longer borders that hinder scientists and engineers from crossing political divides. In addition, if the students can connect and identify with a minority scientists then they may be influenced to continue with a role positive role model.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Learn about minority scientists in the past and present.
- Reinforce their writing and letter drafting skills.

**Educational Standards:**

Variables and Ecosystems, 3.1.7c

**Materials List:**

Each student needs:

- Lab notebook
- Pen or pencil
- Calculator

Sheet of paper and number 2 pencil.

**Procedure:**

The students are asked to pick one of the two scientists, Dr. Paula Hammond or Dr. Neil de Grasse Tyson and write a letter asking the scientist about something. It should be about one page, including:

- Where the student is from?
- Something about the student?
- What the student is studying?
- A question that the student would like to ask the scientist?

Investigative Work

What evidence do students collect?

How do students present evidence?

What conclusions are drawn from the evidence?

Include example of data sheets

**Activity Extensions: None**

**Other:**

FOSS Solar Energy Unit

<http://lhsfoss.org/scope/5-6.html>

**Author:** Michael Birnkrant

**Owner:** Drexel University GK-12 program, *Engineering as a Contextual Vehicle for Science and Mathematics Education*, supported in part by National Science Foundation Award No. DGE-0538476

**Copyright:** Copyright 2008 Drexel University GK12 Program. Reproduction permission is granted for non-profit educational use.