

# Bold Women In Black History: Vashti Harrison

Vashti Harrison is a pioneering African American woman who has made significant contributions to the field of medicine. As the first African American woman to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley with a degree in chemistry, she has dedicated her life to breaking down barriers and inspiring others. Throughout her career, she has worked tirelessly to improve the health and well-being of people of color, particularly those who are underserved.



## Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History (Vashti Harrison Book 1) by Vashti Harrison

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English

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## Early Life and Education

Vashti Harrison was born in 1939 in Waco, Texas. Her parents were both educators, and she grew up in a home where education was highly valued. From a young age, Harrison excelled in science and math. She attended Spelman College, a historically black women's college in Atlanta, Georgia, where she earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1961.

After graduating from Spelman College, Harrison went on to the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned a master's degree in chemistry in

1963 and a doctorate in chemistry in 1966. She was the first African American woman to earn a doctorate in chemistry from Berkeley.

## **Career and Accomplishments**

After completing her doctorate, Harrison began her career as a research chemist at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1973, she joined the faculty of the University of Chicago, where she became a full professor in 1981. Harrison's research has focused on the chemistry of natural products, particularly those from plants. She has made significant contributions to the understanding of the structure and function of these compounds.

In addition to her research, Harrison has also been a dedicated advocate for diversity and inclusion in STEM fields. She has served on numerous committees and boards that work to increase the participation of women and minorities in science and engineering. She is also the co-author of a book entitled "Bold Women In Black History: Vashti Harrison." The book tells the stories of 13 African American women who have made significant contributions to the field of science.

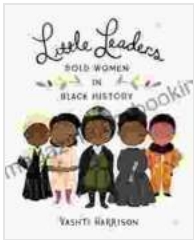
## **Legacy and Impact**

Vashti Harrison is a true pioneer in the field of medicine. Her research has made significant contributions to the understanding of natural products, and her advocacy for diversity and inclusion has helped to create a more just and equitable society. She is an inspiration to all who work to break down barriers and make a difference in the world.

## **Additional Resources**

- Vashti Harrison's website

- Vashti Harrison's biography on BlackPast.org
- Vashti Harrison's biography on The HistoryMakers



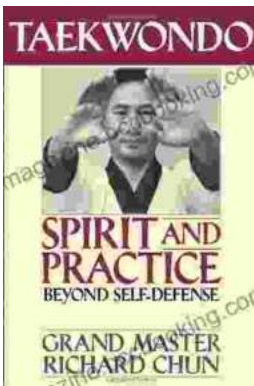
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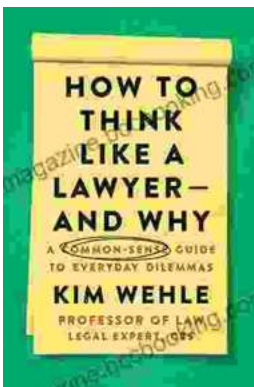
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