

From: Dr. Veronica Hunnicutt

Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 11:32 AM

To: City Librarian

Cc: Sherman, Shawna

Subject: Recognition of Black and African American Inventors and Scientists for Black History Month and Beyond

Good Morning,

My name is Dr. Veronica Hunnicutt. I am a former educator and administrator and worked at the San Francisco Unified School District and City College of San Francisco for 45 years. At CCSF, I served as the head of African American Studies, as an Instructor in the English and Engineering Departments, as the former Dean of the Southeast Campus and the Dean of the Office of Student Affairs. At San Francisco Unified School District, my colleagues and I developed African American courses for students after the Black Panthers protested the lack of African American teachers and Africentric courses at Polytechnic High School. The District complied and the rest is history. Our work was probably the forerunner to the eventual development of African American and Ethnic Studies programs in the State.

I am writing today to thank you and the SFPL for supporting the Black Excellence Book Marks initiative. These bookmarks recognize the genius of Black and African American inventors and scientists who defied racial barriers and oppression and who created products we use and take for granted today. These Black inventors were not and have not been recognized for their brilliance and exceptional work. Your distribution of the book marks is much appreciated. Your development of other activities throughout the year is wonderful, needed, and important.

These inventors and scientists inspire all of us, regardless of our race, creed, gender, or status in life. They remind us that if we put our God-given talents to "doing good" and create something that can benefit all of human kind, then we can make a difference for everyone.

These inventions remind us that major industries in America and globally have benefitted from the knowledge and products of these Black inventors, yet their work, unfortunately, is not recognized to the extent it should be, or common knowledge among young people or adults. Their work inspires all of us to pursue our dreams and to "be the best we can be."

We are grateful to you for promoting these book marks and sponsoring related activities at SFPL, and we are so pleased with Reverend Dr. Carolyn Scott for developing them and making them available to SFPL.

Thank you.

Dr. Veronica Hunnicutt