

Bernard A. Harris, Jr. biography

From modest beginnings to soaring to unbelievable heights, Bernard Harris' maxim is that with the right attitude, your altitude has no limit. Author of the book, *Dream Walker: A Journey of Achievement and Inspiration*, Dr. Harris is currently the CEO of the National Math + Science Initiative, aimed at improving teacher effectiveness and student achievement in STEM education across the country.

The first African American to walk in space, Bernard Harris is a medical doctor, a former NASA scientist and astronaut, former CEO and managing partner of successful venture capital firm, as well as several faculty appointments. While at NASA, he conducted research in musculoskeletal physiology and clinical investigations of space adaptation and developed in-flight medical devices to extend astronaut stays in space.

Dr. Harris was associate professor of internal medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch and assistant professor at Baylor College of Medicine. He holds a master of medical science from the University of Texas Medical Branch of Galveston, a master of business administration from the University of Houston Clear Lake, and a PhD of medicine from the Texas Tech University School of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic and a National Research Council Fellowship in endocrinology at the NASA Ames Research Center, and he trained as a flight surgeon at the Aerospace School of Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, in San Antonio.