

ONEEKA WILLIAMS, MD

NEWSLETTER FALL 2014

Dr. Oneeka Williams is being honored by the Science Club for Girls for her work to inspire the lives of children, especially girls, towards a greater interest in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. She has combined her love of science, medicine and public health with her love of writing to create global impact. She has published a series of children's books featuring *Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo- Super Surgeon on the Go*, which has been embraced by children and educators across the country and various parts of the world.



Dr. Oneeka Williams Named Recipient of 2014 Science Club for Girls Catalyst Award

This award recognizes individuals and institutions that are strategic, innovative and effective in promoting diversity in science, technology and engineering.



Dr. Oneeka Williams is an active practicing surgeon and a tireless mentor to girls and students. She shares her passion and knowledge by speaking frequently to both children and adults on STEM, literacy and health-related topics. To further her advocacy of literacy and science education, she is authoring a series of children's books featuring super-hero *Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo*.

These past months, *Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo* has really been on the move! Her books can be seen in bookstores and libraries in the U.S., and have been showcased at some of the leading book publishing events in the world including *Book Expo America* in New York, the *American Library Association Conference* in Las Vegas and the *Frankfurt Book Fair* in Germany.

DONATE BOOKS TO KIDS IN NEED THROUGH OUR NEW BOOK DONATIONS PROGRAM

A special *Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo Book Donations Program* has been developed in partnership with *First Book* (www.firstbook.org), a respected nonprofit that provides access to new books for children in need. Since its founding 21 years ago, *First Book* has distributed more than 115 million books to 100,000 programs and schools serving children from low-income families throughout the United States and Canada.

Did you know that 42% of children in the United States live in low-income households with most having no age-appropriate books at home. Classrooms are also under-resourced with two-thirds unable to afford to buy books at retail prices.

THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR MORE DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

The *Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo* books address a need for representation of people of color in children's literature.

An Opinion piece in the New York Times (dated March 15, 2014) by author *Walter Dean Myers* cited the statistic that of 3,200 children's books published in 2013, just 93 were about black people, according to a study by the *Cooperative Children's Book Center*. Myers states that 40 percent of public school students nationwide are black and Latino, making the disparity of representation in children's literature "even more egregious."

To encourage donations of copies of these books to schools, libraries and youth organizations, we are offering special discounts for bulk purchases. (Our partner organization will provide you with a receipt or letter confirming your donation, and we recommend that you check with your accountant about tax deductibility.)

For more info, refer to the BOOK DONATIONS PAGE at:

www.droneeka.com

**Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo Book Series
Featured in
ESSENCE
MAGAZINE.**

The *Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo* books address a need for representation of people of color in children's literature.



Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo featured in June issue of *Essence Magazine* 10 Things We're Talking About

www.drdeeededynamo.com

2 CHANGING THE RATIO
Just 93 of the 3,200 children's books published in 2013 featured Black characters, says the Cooperative Children's Book Center. Aware of this low representation, Oneeka Williams, M.D., wrote the *Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo* series. Her third book comes out in July.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM DR. ONEEKA WILLIAMS

“As you may know, a literate and STEM-proficient workforce is critical to the future of this country. Despite the growing need for qualified STEM professionals, women and minorities continue to be underrepresented in these fields. I am on a mission to ‘*Educate, Empower and Enrich*’ the lives of children, especially girls, towards a greater interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. As Founder and President of Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo LLC, I have developed a mechanism to engage children in the joys of science at an early age. I believe that by planting the seeds of curiosity, incorporating science content into an entertainment platform, and delivering the message in the form of a powerful, confident girl character, I will create early imprinting of what is possible thus dispelling the common childhood belief, that scientists are *old, white men with spectacles*. Creating an interest in science, along with creating confidence and proficiency at an early age, will have a profound impact on increasing the percentage of women and underrepresented minorities entering STEM careers. Consequently, the implications for economic empowerment and the eventual effects on health disparities in these groups can be life altering.”



All Three Books in the Dr. Dee Dee Dynamo “SPACE” Book Series Available This Fall!

Mission to Pluto and *Meteorite Mission* are now available and *Saturn Surprise* will be out in late Fall.

