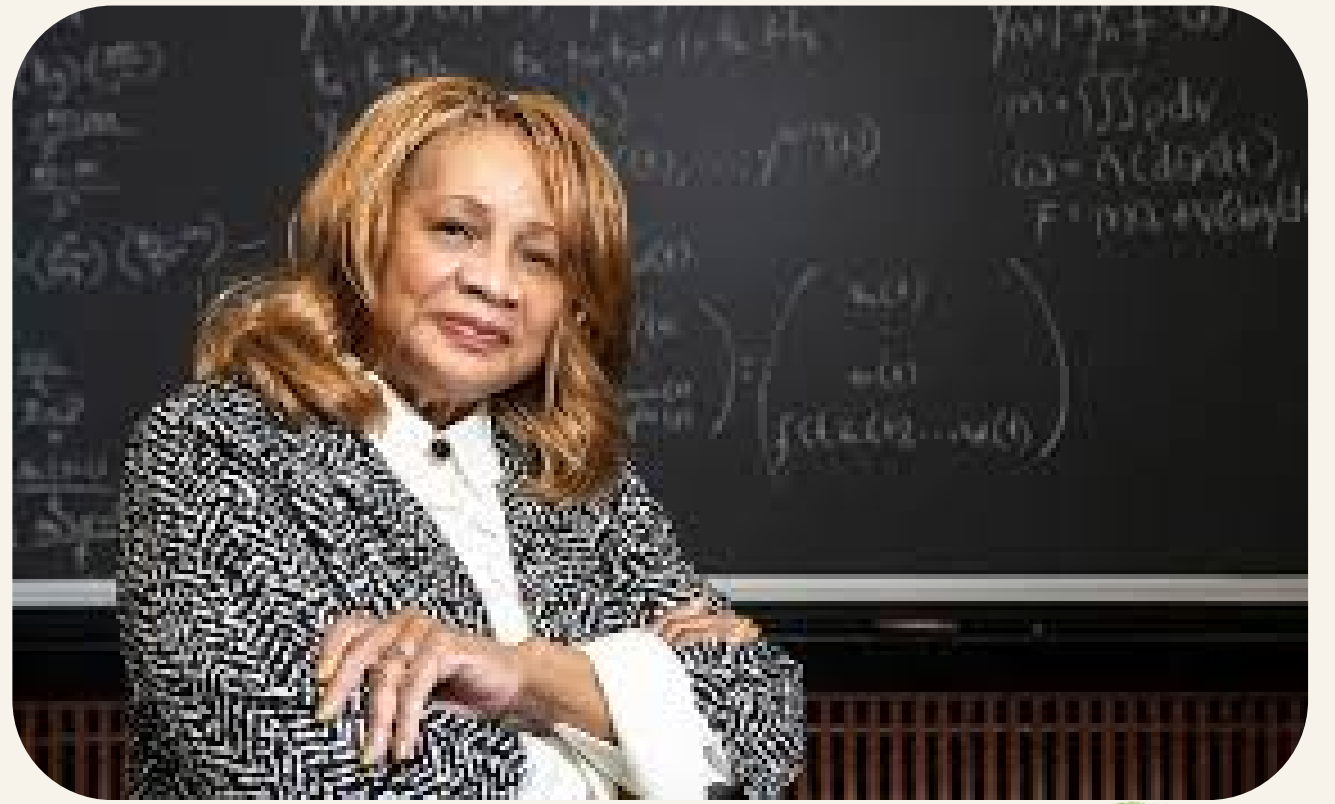


Elayne Arrington

(USA, 1940)



Early life

Elayne Arrington was born in 1940 and is now 84 years old. She was born in a small town in Pennsylvania, USA called West Mifflin. She graduated from Homestead High School, winning the valedictorian position. She received the highest SAT score in mathematics of 797 out of 800.



Education

First she went to the University of Pittsburgh, where she was in the Pi Tau Sigma honour society, and got her Bachelor of Science in aeronautical engineering. She became the first black woman to graduate from the engineering school. In 1968 she went to the University of Dayton, Ohio, where she earned her Master of Science degree. In 1974, she got her PhD in mathematics from the University of Cincinnati.

Field Contributions

After attending school, she was hired as an aerospace engineer where she did performance analysis on Soviet Union aircraft. She worked at the Wright-Patterson base for the foreign technology division in Dayton, Ohio. Doing all of this, she advanced American technology itself.



Adversity

Elayne has faced adversity her whole life because of her race and gender. In her grade 12 year, she won the valedictorian award so she would have had to make a speech and read it. She had this privilege taken away and it was given to a white male. After high school she got a full ride scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh. Once they found out she was female the company supplying the scholarship took it away because they did not believe women could complete an engineering program.



Fun facts

Elayne was the first black woman to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh for engineering. She was also the first female aerospace engineer to work at the Wright-Patterson base in Dayton, Ohio. After retiring from her field she taught mathematics at the University of Pittsburgh for 40 years.

