

BLACK REPRESENTATION: Authoring STEM Stories for Climate Risk Preparedness | AWARD #2314101

Community Partners: Knology, Highlights Foundation, Association of Children's Museum, National Black Child Development Institute
PIs: Ed Greene (Knology), edg@knology.org

[Project website link](#)

Project Description

BlackRep4Kids is a collaborative project that seeks to address the lack of representation and inclusion of Black voices in climate science literature for children. It will do so by sparking conversations among Black researchers and professionals working in climate science, developmental psychology, early childhood education, informal learning, and children's media. This work, and the BlackRep4Kids Unconference in Fall 2024, will lay the foundation for new picture books, storybooks, and other media that will help Black families and their children discuss, prepare for, and respond to a multitude of environmental threats.

Key Achievements

- The project has just begun! But we have already gathered an incredible cross-disciplinary team of advisors, begun building a resource library, and started planning podcast episodes.
- We are learning the parameters for the project, what information is *critical* for children 3-9, and what is developmentally appropriate to meet kids where they are at.

Audience & Settings

Audience: Black children's authors, illustrators, publishers, and producers

Disciplinary area: Cross-disciplinary; Media, STEM education, child development, museum science

Learning environment: Children's media (Picture Books, Storybooks, Audiobooks)

Access and Inclusion

This project centers equity in its design, research questions, methods, and desired outcomes. The team will be led by Black researchers, media professionals, and content creators from the inception. The hybrid format Unconference in Fall 2024 will be fully accessible, and a space for co-creation, led by participants rather than project leadership.



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New Directions in Climate Research