

Dr. Michele Wise Wright Receives NBE's 2024 "Lifetime Achievement Award in Industry" Golden Torch Award

Dr. Michele Wise Wright, Ph.D. received the prestigious 2024 "Lifetime Achievement in Industry" Golden Torch Award at the 50th National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Gala on March 23rd in Atlanta, GA in recognition of her exceptional technical achievements, exemplary leadership, and significant career contributions in industry over many years.

NSBE's 50th Conference made history in Atlanta as it gathered more than 18,000 attendees for NSBE50. As Dr. Wise Wright shares, "I am so incredibly grateful for this incredible honor. And, the icing on the cake, or should I say the Gold on the Torch, was being introduced and having this momentous lifetime achievement award presented to me by no other than Mr. Edmond Coleman, one of the esteemed "Chicago Six" (*Ed Coleman, Anthony "Tony" Harris, Brian Harris, Stanley L. Kirtley (deceased), John W. Logan Jr. (deceased), and George Antoin Smith*) who founded NSBE in 1974 at Purdue University, alongside their Advisor, the Late *Dr. Arthur J. Bond.*"

As Dr. Wise Wright reflects on her own unique and unforgettable connection with Dr. Arthur J. Bond, she expresses, *"It is imperative to reflect upon your past; It is your heritage. Acknowledge the present; It is your responsibility. Plan for your future; It is your challenge. As I reflect upon the past, I can't help but reflect on the heritage of original NSBE founder and advisor, Dr. Arthur J. Bond, who not only guided NSBE but me through my final undergraduate year of engineering as the head of Tuskegee University's electrical engineering department and who also graciously presented me with the "Electrical Engineer Student of the Year" award during my senior year at Tuskegee in 1990".*

A lifetime member of NSBE, Dr. Wise Wright earned her Ph.D. in public policy at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a double specialization in health and leadership policy. She holds a Master of Science from the University of Tennessee Space Institute (UTSI), where she chartered and served as the Founding President of the NSBE chapter, was the university's first GEM Fellow, and was the first African American full-time student to receive a master's degree in engineering management/industrial engineer. She holds a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Tuskegee University, where she was a dedicated member of NSBE, Miss United Negro College Fund (UNCF), Miss Engineering, and President of the Engineering Representative Council.

Dr. Wise Wright is also the recent recipient of the 2024 King Kennedy Awards' Irma Hunter Brown Women's Leadership Award, which is presented to a woman of color who fights to make sure that gender bias is overcome by competence, commitment, and courage. She is a 2023 AARP Purpose Prize Fellow and the 2022 USA TODAY Woman of the Year for Arkansas in recognition of her global impact and nationally recognized contributions to STEM, STEAM, Diversity, Inclusion, and Health Equity. She is the recipient of the Nations of Women Change

Makers 2021 Global Leadership Award and a nominee of the EveryLife Foundation of Rare Diseases' RareVoice 2021 Award for Diversity Empowerment. In 2022, she and her husband Terry Wright, co-founders of the National Organization of African Americans with Cystic Fibrosis (NOAACF), became the first people of color to receive the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) Arkansas Chapter's annual Breath of Life Award, CFF's highest award.

Dr. Wise Wright currently serves as the Senior Director of the National Organization of African Americans with Cystic Fibrosis (NOAACF); the President and Board Chair of the Milton Pitts Crenshaw Aviation Training Academy (MPCATA); and the Director of Business Development and Outreach for the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE), the global society of media professionals, technologists, and engineers working together for the advancement of all things technical in the motion picture, television, and digital media industries.

Dr. Wise Wright has always believed that "The Best is yet to Come." She takes this philosophy forward as she continues her work to make a positive impact on children, women, and underrepresented populations worldwide. Michele and her husband Terry reside in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

A list of all NSBE #50 GTA Honorees can be found here: [Golden Torch Awards Honorees - #NSBE50 Convention](#)