



# Dr. Tahira Reid Smith

Smithsonian-Featured Inventor | Engineering Professor | Woman of Faith

Dr. Tahira Reid Smith is a Smithsonian-featured inventor, Full Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Penn State University, and founder of Jump Dreams, Inc. — the company bringing the world's first automated Double Dutch jump rope system to market. Her 40-year journey from a third-grade sketch in the Bronx to a Smithsonian exhibit has been featured by the New York Times, Essence, NBC's Today Show, NPR, BBC, and PBS NOVA. A Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a distinction held by only a small fraction of ASME members, Dr. Reid Smith has spent 26 years walking by faith as the Lord has unfolded the calling He placed on her heart as a child. Her talks combine the credibility of an engineering professor with the testimony of a woman whose life is living proof that God's promises are worth the wait.

AS SEEN IN



Smithsonian

The New York Times



EBONY

## SIGNATURE TOPICS

**Walking by Faith: A 26-Year Journey from Vision to Calling:** Some dreams take longer than we expect. Dr. Tahira Reid Smith shares her testimony of walking with the Lord through 26 years of waiting, preparing, and pursuing the calling God placed on her heart as a child. From classroom to laboratory to Smithsonian to founding her own company, she shares the spiritual practices, scriptures, and seasons of trust that sustained her — and reminds audiences that God's timing is always purposeful, even when it feels long. *Ideal for: Women's Ministries · Christian Conferences · Faith-Based Business Events · Sunday Services*

**The Hidden Cost of Walking by Faith: What No One Tells You About Obedience:** Following God's call is rarely the straight path we imagine. Dr. Tahira Reid Smith shares the seasons of doubt, isolation, financial sacrifice, and quiet faithfulness that came with pursuing her calling — and the truths that anchored her through each one. This talk equips believers to count the cost honestly while trusting that God's promises are worth the journey. *Ideal for: Women's Conferences · Faith-Based Entrepreneurship Events · Black Church Engagements · Christian Leadership Retreats*

**From Sketch to Salvation to Smithsonian: How God Uses Our Whole Story:** God doesn't waste any part of our journey — not the childhood dreams, not the academic pursuits, not the long waiting seasons. Dr. Tahira Reid Smith shares how a third-grade sketch, a college conversion, decades of engineering work, and a Smithsonian exhibit are all chapters in one story God has been writing. This talk encourages believers to trust that their gifts, their callings, and their seasons are all being used for His purposes. *Ideal for: Christian Conferences · Mother-Daughter Events · Women's Retreats · Faith & Work Gatherings*



1500+

students educated



50+

keynotes



1700

citations



50+

media interviews



20+

awards

# A Lifetime of Innovation

From Childhood Sketch to Prototype, Patent, and the Smithsonian



Dr. Tahira Reid Smith's groundbreaking invention — the world's first automated Double Dutch jump rope system — began as a third-grade sketch at PS 97 in the Bronx in 1986. Years later, as a mechanical engineering student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, she transformed that childhood idea into a working prototype. Today, the photo from the day her prototype first worked is on display at the Smithsonian's "Change Your Game" exhibit, and she is bringing the invention to market through Jump Dreams, Inc., the Black-woman-owned company she founded in 2024. She recently showcased Jump Dreams at the Congressional Inventions Project's Women's History Month Innovation Showcase on Capitol Hill, and her upcoming children's book, *Tahira and the Double Dutch Dream: The Story of Jump Dreams*, will share the journey with the next generation of dreamers. Dr. Reid Smith is ready to inspire your audience with stories of creativity, persistence, and walking by faith. Dr. Reid Smith is ready to encourage your audience with a testimony of creativity, perseverance, and what God can do through a life surrendered to Him.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Smithsonian-Featured Inventor
- ✓ Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Penn State University
- ✓ Founder & CEO of Jump Dreams, Inc.
- ✓ Featured on Capitol Hill (March 2026)
- ✓ Mentor to hundreds of students and aspiring inventors
- ✓ Exhorter, Teacher, and Intercessor



## GET IN TOUCH

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