

**SHE TURNED HER
CAN'TS
INTO
CANS**

**AND HER
DREAMS
INTO
PLANS**

-KOBI YAMADA

African American HER-story in the Making

Join TriHealth in celebrating these African American women who have shattered glass ceilings or made considerable impacts in science, the arts or education, and other culturally-relevant areas.

Click through this list to see who we are recognizing!



Vice President Kamala Harris

Claim to Fame: American politician

Why She's Extraordinary: Following the November 2020 election, Sen. Harris of California made history, becoming the first woman and first Black and Asian American to hold the title of Vice President. She's also the first woman and person of color to be district attorney of San Francisco and attorney general of California.



Michelle Obama

Claim to Fame: Author, lawyer, and the first Black First Lady of the United States (FLOTUS)

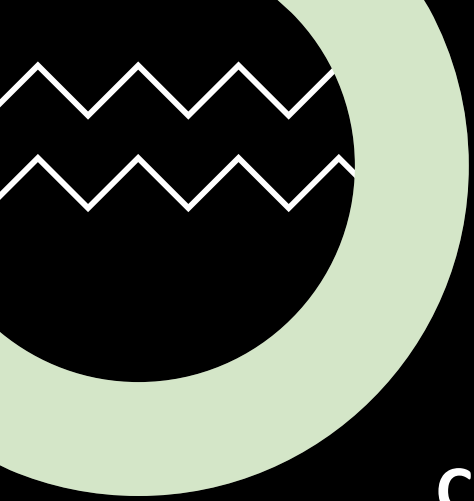
Why She's Extraordinary: Obama captivated many with her show of warmth, strength, and positivity as the country's FLOTUS from 2009 to 2017. In her role, she fought against childhood obesity and championed education for young girls. And in the face of dark political times, during her speech at the 2016 Democratic National Convention, she delivered a line that still resonates with many today: "When they go low, we go high." She's also the bestselling author of *Becoming* and a podcaster.

Kizzmekia Corbett

Claim to Fame: American Immunologist

Why She's Extraordinary: The Hillsborough Board of Commissioners honored Corbett, a noted scientist from Hillsborough, for helping develop the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Corbett called the honor "absolutely amazing."





Oprah Winfrey

Claim to Fame: Talk show host, media executive, actress and billionaire philanthropist

Why She's Extraordinary:

Winfrey is best known for hosting her own internationally popular talk show for 25 seasons (1986-2011). She launched her own television network, OWN.



Viola Davis

Claim to Fame: Actress, producer

Why She's Extraordinary: In 2015, Davis made history by becoming the first Black woman to win a Emmy for outstanding lead actress in a drama series for her work in ABC's *How to Get Away With Murder*. She's also an Academy Award winner and has been in a countless number of our favorite films.





Allyson Felix

Claim to Fame: Athlete, track and field star

Why She's Extraordinary: In 2019, track star and four-time-Olympian, Felix broke Usain Bolt's record for the most-ever gold medals won at the world championships. She has 13 at the time.

Ruth E. Carter

Claim to Fame: Costume designer

Why She's Extraordinary: Though you can trace Carter's costume design career back to 1988's *School Daze*, in 2019 she became the first African American woman to win the Oscar for Costume Design for her work in Marvel's *Black Panther*.





Jennifer King

Claim to Fame: Assistant Running Back Coach for the Washington Redskins

Why She's Extraordinary: King is the first African American female Assistant Position Coach in NFL history. King is only the second female Assistant Position Coach in the NFL, behind Tampa Bay Buccaneers Assistant Defensive Line Coach Lori Locust.

Brehanna Daniels

Claim to Fame: NASCAR Pit Crew Member

Why She's Extraordinary: She is the first African American woman to become a NASCAR pit crew member.





Janet Mock

Claim to Fame: Writer, producer, transgender rights activist

Why She's Extraordinary: Mock, recipient of the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the 2020 GLAAD Media Awards, is one of the leading voices for transgender rights in the 21st century. With her work on *Pose*, she became the first transgender woman of color to write and direct a TV episode. She's also a *New York Times* bestselling author. In 2019, she signed a three year, multi-million dollar deal with Netflix.

Sheila Johnson

Claim to Fame: Businesswoman, entrepreneur

Why She's Extraordinary: As the co-founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET), Johnson earned her spot as the first Black female billionaire on a *Forbes* list in 2000. She's also the first and *only* African American woman to have a stake in three professional sports teams: The Wizards, Capitals, and Mystics.





Shonda Rhimes

Claim to Fame: Producer, screenwriter, author

Why She's Extraordinary: At the helm of beloved shows like *Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal*, and *How to Get Away With Murder*, Rhimes' production company, Shondaland, owns ABC's Thursday night. She's the first Black woman to create and produce a top 10 network series. Most recently, Rhimes signed deal with Netflix to develop eight new series for the streaming giant, including the breakout romantic period drama, *Bridgerton*.

Simone Biles

Claim to Fame: Olympic gymnast

Why She's Extraordinary: Part of the gold-winning U.S. women's artistic gymnastics team at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, Biles is a highly decorated gymnast in her own right. She's the first female gymnast to win three World All-Around titles in a row; the most decorated American gymnast with 30 World and Olympic medals; and she's won the most World Championship medals by a woman gymnast in history (25), including 19 gold.





Misty Copeland

Claim to Fame: Ballerina and athlete

Why She's Extraordinary: A fierce advocate for dance as a form of expression for people of color everywhere, Copeland became the first African American woman to become the American Ballet Theatre's principal dancer in 75 years. Known to many as a prodigy in the dance world, Copeland was dancing en-pointe three months after her first dance class as a teen and was then performing professionally within a year.

Stacey Abrams

Claim to Fame: Politician, lawyer, novelist

Why She's Extraordinary: Abrams earned herself an endorsement by Oprah during her campaign to become Georgia's new governor in 2018. She would have been the first black woman to step into the role. Though she lost the race, she's still a political standout, delivering the Democratic response to President Trump's State of the Union Address in 2019 and leading the charge against voter suppression in Georgia.





Venus and Serena Williams

Claim to Fame: Professional tennis players

Why They're Extraordinary: The sisters are incredibly decorated athletes, with 122 combined career singles titles and a total of nine Olympic medals between the two of them. Serena, 39, is the first tennis player to win 23 Grand Slam titles and has won more than \$88 million in prize money—the highest of any female athlete.



Loretta Lynch

Claim to Fame: Lawyer

Why She's Extraordinary: Lynch, a Harvard graduate, was the first Black woman to be named Attorney General of the United States during the Obama Administration (2015-2017).

Cori "Coco" Gauff

Claim to Fame: Professional tennis player

Why She's Extraordinary: In 2019, at the age of 15, Gauff made the headlines by beating Venus Williams at Wimbledon, becoming the youngest woman to win a match at the prominent tennis championships since 1991. She's currently the youngest player ranked in the Women's Tennis Association's Top 100.





Ibtihaj Muhammad

Claim to Fame: Olympic fencer, activist


Why She's Extraordinary: During the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics, Muhammad became the first American woman to wear a hijab while competing at the games and win a bronze medal. She's also a five-time Senior World medalist and World Champion. In 2017, Mattel produced their first hijab-wearing Barbie, created in Muhammad's likeness.

Amanda Gorman

Claim to Fame: The youngest Inaugural Poet in U.S. history

Why She's Extraordinary: Gorman is the first African American writer to recite a poem at the inauguration of a U.S. President. Her poem "The Hill We Climb" became an instant inspiration for the next generation.





One of the most courageous things you can do is identify yourself, know who you are, what you believe in and where you want to go.

– Sheila Murray Bethel