

Dr. Herman Branson, Physicist



- Born: August 14, 1914, in Pocahontas, VA
- Died: June 7, 1995

Education

- Earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Virginia State College in 1936
- Earned a Doctor of Philosophy Degree (Ph.D.) in Physics from the University of Cincinnati in 1939

Some of His Accomplishments

- Dr. Branson studied the physics of biological systems.
- He co-discovered the alpha-helix, which is a structure that nearly all proteins contain. He may have been cheated out of a share of the Nobel Prize in chemistry for this.

Accomplishments, continued

- Wrote over 100 research papers and other articles in the fields of biophysics, physics, science education, and Black colleges in America.
- Studied and wrote about the physics and chemistry of the sickle shaped red blood cells that occur in sickle cell anemia

Positions Held

- 1941-1968: Chairman of the Department of Physics at Howard University
- 1968 -1970: President of Central State University
- 1970 - 1985: President of Lincoln University