

The Honorary Graduand: Dr Nike Folayan MBE

The Orator: Doctor Jonathan Winfield

Dr Nike Folayan MBE is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Technology.

Dr Nike Folayan MBE is a Chartered Electronics Engineer. A technological innovator, Nike has been at the forefront of developing pioneering communication and control solutions for various major railway schemes, including HS2 and Crossrail. She is Technical Director and the Technical Discipline Leader for Communications and Control within WSP, an engineering consultancy where she leads a team of telecommunications engineers in the UK and India working on a variety of global projects within the transport sector in the UK, Australia, South America, Middle East and Africa. Before WSP Nike worked on projects for Mott MacDonald, Parsons Brinckerhoff and Harada Industries Limited. She is also a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

Nike is also Co-founder of the Association for Black and Minority Ethnic Engineers (AFBE-UK). AFBE-UK is a not for profit organisation that promotes higher achievements in education and engineering particularly among people from black and minority ethnicity (BME) backgrounds. AFBE-UK is a network of 2,500 members who run a series of initiatives that cater to the needs of pupils as young as 8 years old to experienced technical professionals seeking progression into corporate management. AFBE-UK's programmes have benefitted more than 20,000 people to date.

Nike received a Masters degree from the University of Kent and a Doctorate degree in Engineering from the University of Sheffield. She is a Trustee at EngineeringUK and Stemettes Futures a charity that promotes engineering to girls and non-binary young people. She has served on various industry boards for the Science Council, Royal Academy of Engineering, and Transport for London. She is also on the engineering industrial panel at the University of Kent and was on the strategic planning advisory group for University of West of England Bristol. She is on the Advisory Board of the Tomorrows Engineers Code. Nike is also a Patron of Croydon Supplementary Education Project. In 2020 Nike joined the board of Commissioners for the Hamilton Commission. The Commission was an independent group that oversaw the publication of the Hamilton report which aimed to help improve the representation of Black people in UK motorsport.

Nike was a judge for the 2019 IET Young Woman Engineer Awards in 2019 and is on the judging panel Engineering Leadership Scholarship Steering Group for the Royal Academy of Engineering. The Engineering Leaders Scholarships (ELS) programme aims to provide support for undergraduates in UK Higher Education Institutions (HEI) who have the potential to become leaders in engineering and who are able to act as role models for future engineers. Nike was featured in the One to Watch list in Britain's 100 most influential people of African and Caribbean heritage 2012 Powerlist and named as Top 100 most influential women in Engineering by Financial Times in 2020. Nike was listed in the Cranfield University Female FTSE Board report as one of 100 Women to Watch.

In 2020, Nike was awarded an MBE for her contribution to Diversity in Engineering in the Queens New Year's honours list.