

## Impact Statement

Preston Humphrey, Grade 7.

***Observing the Stars***, 2017.

Acrylic on canvas, 8 x 16 Inches.

LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL

Unsung Hero: Robert Eugene Williams

My main inspiration for my piece was to give others an appreciative understanding of Robert Williams and his accomplishments. His time contributions to NASA and the observations and discoveries of distant galaxies are definitely exemplary and truly inspirational. He sacrificed large amounts of time to the space telescope science institute and the study of telescopes in general. His vast knowledge of telescopes led to his study of distant galaxies. These eventually led to his acceptance of multiple awards including 1998 Beatrice M. Prize and the 1999 NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal. Not only did he study astronomy, but he taught it when he was a professor at the University of Arizona. "Career development of young researchers and public outreach are vital to astronomy, therefore I spend a considerable amount of time lecturing and working with colleagues world-wide on various research projects, in addition to serving on policy and oversight committees." Overall my priority when creating the idea was to express all of his many accomplishments, contributions, knowledge and overall talent according to the exploration of distant galaxies and unknown outer space. My interpretation of the piece is a depiction of Robert Williams conducting an experiment in a field, observing the stars using a small, humbling telescope. I did my best to give viewers a better understanding of his knowledge shared with the world. I chose him as my unsung hero for the simple reason that I share his love of astronomy and I feel that his contributions should be shared with others who could appreciate his vast knowledge of astronomy as much as I do. I tried to find reference material that best represented Robert Williams. The reference portrait I found seemed to reflect an astronomical thought process while he admired the vast array of stars and a field of future discovery. In the foreground I placed a humble yet sophisticated tripod telescope to signify a personal pastime study, rather than an otherwise important study of the stars. By doing this I gave viewers the impression that it is not only a profession of Robert Williams but a treasured hobby in which he practiced even in his free time. In the background, I placed an extremely sophisticated high complexity telescope that worked well with my previous composition to signify an extreme level of hard work put into the growth of his astronomical knowledge, and loyalty to NASA and his scientific field. His overall positive and inspiring contributions to society played a vital role in the creation and composition of the painting. I feel that as a child his interest in astronomy is what brought him to become a professional, and that children and students today could benefit and possibly find a field that interests them. A career in astronomy could not only benefit and build on their growing knowledge, but also benefit others with the same goals and discovery hopes. I am highly grateful for all of the time and knowledge contributions that Robert Williams has equipped NASA and all the observers, and overall lovers and contributors of the vast growing knowledge of the universe surrounding earth. I hope that my submission inspires others to recognize these unsung heroes, and be inspired to make a change as they did.