

Walter Lincoln Hawkins

PIONEER OF POLYMER CHEMISTRY

ABOUT

Walter Lincoln Hawkins was born in Washington, D.C. in 1911. As an African American with a fond interest in maths and science, he had to face several obstacles throughout his life. After completing his PhD, he went on to work for Bell Laboratories. He was able to design a new polymer that made telephone cables much safer, which improved telecommunications globally.



Did you know?

Walter Lincoln Hawkins was the first African American to work in a technical position at Bell Laboratories.

He became a role model and inspiration for younger minority students and created a summer research programme at his company to support women and ethnic minorities.

He received a Medal of Technology and Innovation from President George H. W. Bush.