

James Andrew Harris

CO-DISCOVERED ELEMENTS 104 AND 105

ABOUT

James Andrew Harris grew up in Texas and California. In 1953, he earned a Bachelor's degree in chemistry from Huston-Tillotson College, Texas. After graduating he found it extremely difficult to find work because of racial discrimination. In the 1960s and 1970s it was at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory where he carried out the work, he's most known for. With his team he discovered two elements: element 104, rutherfordium, and 105, dubnium.



Did you know?

James never got a PhD, Houston-Tillotson College awarded him an honorary PhD in 1973 and two Merit Awards—one from the Mayor of Richmond, and the other from the National Urban League.

James Andrew Harris' main role was to prepare targets for the discovery of heavy elements. Famous nuclear chemist Albert Ghiorso said about Harris's target that it was "the best ever made for heavy element research."