

Rev. Dr. Darlene “Dr. Dee” Williams, PhD, D.R.E, is a nationally recognized executive leader with over 30 years of experience leading complex nonprofit, public-sector, healthcare, human services, and higher education organizations through periods of growth, transformation, and organizational transition. Throughout her distinguished career, she has served in senior leadership roles including President & CEO, Interim CEO, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Program Officer, Assistant Commissioner, Executive Director, and Board leader across some of New York City’s most impactful institutions, where she has guided organizations through executive transition while strengthening strategic direction, organizational culture, operations, and sustainability.

Dr. Williams has overseen multimillion-dollar budgets, led large multidisciplinary teams of more than 700 employees, managed complex government and philanthropic partnerships, and strengthened operational performance across organizations serving historically underserved communities. Her leadership expertise spans strategic planning, organizational transformation, operations management, program oversight, fundraising, public policy, governance, workforce development, and community-centered systems leadership.

A respected educator and thought leader, Dr. Williams has served as graduate and undergraduate faculty across multiple higher education institutions, teaching research methods, nonprofit management, public administration, leadership, and organizational systems. She holds dual doctorate degrees in Public Policy & Administration and Doctor of Religious Education, bringing together systems leadership, evidence-informed strategy, and a deep commitment to service and community impact.

Dr. Williams has received numerous honors recognizing her leadership and public service, including the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, Crain’s New York Most Notable Black Leaders, City & State Above & Beyond in Social Services, Nonprofit Trailblazers, Fifty Over 50: The Age Disruptors, Above & Beyond Gen X, The Responsible 100 Award, PoliticsNY & AMNY Metro Nonprofit Players, and Schneps Media Queens and Manhattan Power Lists, along with multiple civic and community leadership recognitions.

Known for her strategic vision, operational excellence, and collaborative leadership style, Dr. Williams is deeply committed to strengthening organizations, advancing equity, building high-performing

teams, and creating sustainable systems that improve outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.