

Dr. Herma Williams



Dr. Herma Williams was born in the Republic of Panama, Panama City. She immigrated to the USA with siblings and her parents, Rev. Fitz and Geraldine Barclay, who served as inner-city ministers for nearly 50 years on the Southside in Chicago, IL. Williams attended elementary and high school in Chicago. Herma Williams received her BA and MS degrees from Southern Illinois University, in Carbondale, Illinois. She received her Ph.D. with her husband Dr. Eric Williams in 1976 from Iowa State University, in Ames, Iowa. Williams also received an Honorary Doctorate of

Humane Letters from Huntington University, in Indiana in 2010.

Williams worked as a senior academic administrator at numerous colleges and universities. Her most recent professional role was Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Fresno Pacific University, 2006-2011. Prior to this, Williams served as Associate Provost at Gordon College near Boston where she led faculty development. Additionally, she assisted in developing the Boston Minority Student, New City Scholars Mentoring Program which opened the door for inner-city, first generation Boston youth to attend college.

Herma Williams is a recipient of numerous fellowships including: Ford Fellowships, one in Community College Leadership and also in fundraising, (CASE); American Council on Education, (ACE) Fellowship in Higher Education; Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship, Harvard University Institute for Educational Administrators and Fulbright Fellowship to the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa, 1996 and 1997.

Dr. Williams served as a Fulbright Scholar in South Africa during a unique time in South Africa's transition from Apartheid to democracy. While as a Fulbright Scholar in South Africa, Dr. Williams worked to improve the quality of underserved township Black schools, including those in the Western Cape and Gugulethu townships.

Herma Williams is editor of a book "Empowerment through Difference: Multicultural Awareness in Education," and numerous academic articles. She has two children, Eric and Dana Williams. Currently, Williams serves on several national boards including: Fulbright Association Board, (2000-2016); Peer Servants, Board Chair, (Microfinance Partner Leadership Program in 10 International countries); Degrees of Change Board, Tacoma and Seattle, WA, "Program to equip students of color to learn together through college and lead together back home".