

Dr. Tonjua Williams

Biography



Tonjua Williams is the President of St. Petersburg College. Tonjua has held various positions throughout her 30 years of experience in higher education and was the Senior Vice President for Student Services before becoming President in July of 2017. Enhancing student success and the quality of their experience is one of her most treasured values.

Tonjua is recognized nationally as an expert in student development and strategic planning that transforms departments and institutions. She holds a Ph.D. from Barry University in Higher Education Administration with a specialization in Educational Leadership. She has participated in several leadership programs: Aspen Presidential Fellows Leadership Program (2017), State of Florida Chancellor's Leadership Program, Leadership St. Petersburg, Leadership Tampa Bay, University of Florida's Executive Leadership Program, and the American Association of Community College's Thomas Lakin Leadership Program.

She is a local, state, and national presenter and currently serves as a coach for the American Association of Community College's (AACC) Pathways Initiative and has served in various consulting roles - resident faculty member for the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE) High Impact Practices, Men of Color Institutes, and Entering Student Success Institutes (ESSI). She is a motivational speaker and enjoys encouraging others to excel.

Her passion is to help others overcome obstacles and succeed in life. As a recipient of community outreach services and a member of "the village," she understands the importance of reaching out to others and helping them realize their full potential.

She is active in her community and has received many awards and recognitions: Jr. Achievement Educator of the Year for Pinellas County (2011), finalist for the Tampa Bay Executive Woman of the Year (2013), the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce Iconic Woman of the Year (2013), an Academy Prep Center's 5 Fabulous Females (2014), the Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Passing the Torch Leadership Award for Education (2017), and finalist for the Tampa Bay Business Journal Business Woman of the Year (2017).

She is a native of St. Petersburg and credits much of her success to the upbringing and training provided by her mother, Willie Harris; family members; teachers; neighbors; and the wonderful relationship she has with her loving husband of 27 years, Derrick Williams.