



Women of DISTINCTION

HONORING WOMEN IN NEW YORK

Eva D. Williams

Eva D. Williams embodies the quote by Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." The eldest of three daughters born to Liberian parents in New York City, Mrs. Williams was raised in both Liberia and America. Her father was the Ambassador of Liberia to the United States.

Mrs. Williams is the Principal of Van Duyn Elementary School in the Syracuse City School District, where she uses her position to help inspire, engage and empower her students. She embodies the essence of children reaching their potential through an environment of care and compassion embedded in high-quality instruction. In addition to her concentration on students, it is also her passion to engage their parents. Van Duyn Elementary School has hosted 55 family fun nights since 2013.

Mrs. Williams' service goes beyond Van Duyn Elementary School. She is dedicated to making a difference both locally and globally. She is a member of a number of local boards and organizations, including the Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, which supports and promotes causes of the community; Image Initiative, Inc., which aims to enlighten, engage and empower; and 10 Less, Inc., which promotes civic engagement of male minority middle-school age students.

Her past engagements include co-chairing the SUNY CAP Women's Forum and Minority Affairs and sitting on the Kirk Park Colts Board for Pop Warner Football and Cheerleading. Her recent local efforts include a fundraiser held in remembrance of two students of the school district who passed away in a house fire. Mrs. Williams also inspired her students and staff to scatter winter scarves around Syracuse with notes for the homeless.

Mrs. Williams studied African-American Studies at Binghamton University, Educational Leadership/Administration at SUNY Oswego, and Counselor Education at Syracuse University, where she earned a Master of Science degree in School Counseling. She and her husband of 35 years, Lawrence Williams, have three children and two grandchildren.

***Eva D. Williams was selected as a
2019 Woman of Distinction honoree by Senator Rachel May.***

