

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jamye Coleman Williams

PERSON

Williams, Jamye Coleman, 1918-

Alternative Names: Jamye Coleman Williams;

Life Dates: December 15, 1918-

Place of Birth: Louisville, Kentucky, USA

Residence: Atlanta, Georgia

Occupations: Church Leader; ; Football Player; University President; General; Philosophy and Religion Professor; Lawyer; Social Work Professor; Vice Admiral (Retired)

Biographical Note

Born on December 15, 1918, in Louisville, Kentucky, to an A.M.E. minister and a religious writer, Williams grew up in Kentucky and earned her B.A. with honors in English from Wilberforce University in 1938. The following year, she received an M.A. in English from Fisk University. Over the next twenty years, Williams taught at four A.M.E. colleges-Edward Waters College, Shorter College, Morris Brown College and Wilberforce University. In 1959, she completed her Ph.D. in speech communication at the Ohio State University and that fall joined the faculty of Tennessee State University. She became a full professor of communications and in 1973 took over as head of the department, serving in that capacity until her retirement in 1987.

At the same time that her academic career took off, Williams began to ascend the leadership ranks of the A.M.E. Church. She served as a delegate to the A.M.E. General Conference in 1964 and became a board member of the National Council of Churches in 1968. From 1976 to 1984, she was an alternate member of the A.M.E. Church's Judicial Council, serving as president of the 13th District Lay Organization from 1977 until 1985. At the 1984 General Conference, Williams was named editor of The AME Church Review, the oldest African American literary journal. She held that post for eight years. Williams also has paved the way for others in the A.M.E., helping Vashti McKenzie win election as the first female A.M.E. bishop.

During her forty-five years in Nashville, Williams was active in her community, serving on several interdenominational organizations, community groups and civic committees. She worked as a member of the NAACP's Executive Committee and in 1999 received the organization's Presidential Award. Williams married her husband,

McDonald Williams, in 1943. They have one daughter, one grandson, and two great-granddaughters. Williams resides with her husband in Atlanta.

Williams passed away on January 19, 2022

Related Entries

Dunbar High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Wilberforce University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Fisk University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

The Ohio State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Allegheny College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Harvard Medical School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.D.

Monroe Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Misawa Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Suitland High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lincoln Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Whittier Junior High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lorain High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Nebraska Omaha [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.S.

Florida Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.

University of Chicago Laboratory Schools [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Harvard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

A.B.

Harvard Law School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

J.D.

Harvard Business School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.B.A.

Garnet High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Berea College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Boston University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.S.S.S.

Brandeis University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Garnet High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Washington & Jefferson College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

AB

Washington & Jefferson College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

MA

Johnson C. Smith University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bachelors of Divinity

Yale Divinity School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Masters of Sacred Theology

Harvard Divinity School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Patrick Henry High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

University of Texas at Austin [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Edward Waters College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

English Teacher

Shorter College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

English Teacher

Wilberforce University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

English Teacher

Morris Brown College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Harlem Hospital Center [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to 1981]

Intern

Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1981 to 1984]

Resident

University of California, Los Angeles [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1997 to 1998]

Associate Dean, School of Medicine

Charles R. Drew University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to 1998]

Dean, College of Medicine

Creighton University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1998 to 2003]

Dean of the School of Medicine and the Vice President for Health Sciences

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 20036 to 20066]

President

University of Colorado [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2003 to 2006]

Professor

National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2011 to 2013]

Deputy Director

Wayne State University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 201381 to ?]

President

United States Army [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Various

Dimensions, International [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1999 to 2007]

President and COO

Honeywell (HTSI) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2007 to 2009]

Vice President of Logistics

Nikko Securities Co. [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1986 to 1989]

Investment Banker

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1993 to 1999]

Associate

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1999 to ?]

Partner

New York Circular City Initiative [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2020 to ?]

Co-founder

Hunter College [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2015 to ?]

Adjunct Professor

Georgetown Law School [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2021 to ?]

Adjunct Professor of Law

[EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Boston University Metropolitan College [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1972 to ?]

Founding Director

Massachusetts Governor's Office of Human Resources [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1983 to 1987]

Chief Policy Analyst

Brandeis University, Heller School for Social Policy and Management [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Associate Professor

Brandeis University Women's Studies Research Center [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2003 to ?]

Visiting Scholar

North Carolina University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1953 to 1954]

Professor

Lincoln University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1954 to 1955]

Professor

Knoxville College [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1951 to ?]

Professor

Brandeis University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Protestant Chaplain

Pennsylvania State University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1956 to ?]

Assistant to the Chaplain

Pennsylvania State University [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1957 to 1962]

Assistant University Chaplain

Boston University School of Theology [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1967 to 1970]

Professor

Boston University School of Theology [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1970 to 1971]

Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Social Ethics

Harvard Divinity School [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1971 to 2002]

Houghton Professor of Theology and Contemporary Change

New Orleans Saints [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1999 to 2002]

Running back

Miami Dolphins [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2002 to 2005]

Running back

Toronto Argonauts [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2006 to 2007]

Running back

Miami Dolphins [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2007 to 2011]

Running back

Baltimore Ravens [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2011 to 2012]

Running back

Real [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2018 to ?]

Founder

Tennessee State University [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1959 to ?]

Professor

Tennessee State University [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1989 to 1990]

Department Head

A.M.E. Church Review [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1984 to 1992]

Editor

Massachusetts Medical Society [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

American Medical Association [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

National Eye Institute [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member, Executive/Steering Committee

Food and Drug Administration [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Committee Member

The Glaucoma Foundation [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

UniNet Healthcare Network [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Treasurer of the board

National Research Council [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member, Committee on Disability Determination for Individuals with Visual Impairments

American Ophthalmological Society [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Chair, Strategic Planning Subcommittee

International Glaucoma Research Society [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Academy of Medicine [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

University of Colorado Foundation [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board member

Delta Eta Boule Foundation [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Coalition of Urban Serving Universities [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Association of Academic Health Centers [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board member

Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural and Minority Medicine [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board member

American International Health Alliance [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board member

Global Down Syndrome Foundation [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Chair of the Board of Directors

National Institutes of Health [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Co-chair, Common Fund Initiative on Diversity of Biomedical Research Workforce

Association of American Medical Colleges [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Chair

UHealth University of Miami [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Alpha Phi Alpha [MEMBEROf]

[from 1984 to ?]

Member

Sigma Pi Phi [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

ROCKS, Inc. [MEMBEROf]

[from 1977 to ?]

Member

Washington First Bank [MEMBEROf]
[from 1999 to 2009]

Board Member

New York Public Radio [MEMBEROf]
[from 2021 to ?]

Chair

The Opportunity Agenda [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Co-chair of steering committee

New York City Bar Association [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Diversity and inclusion committee

Council of Urban Professionals [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

New York Public Theater [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Co-chair of governance committee

City Bar Fund of the New York City Bar Association [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board

Equality Now [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board

Cyrus Vance Center for International Justice [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Committee member

New York City Global Partners [MEMBEROf]
[from 2015 to ?]

Board

New York City Economic Development Corporation [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Chair of governance committee

American Chamber of Commerce in Japan [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Vice-chair of the legal services committee

Brandeis University Feminist Sexual Ethics PProject Adivsory Board [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

National Association of Social Workers [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Various

Council on Social Work Education [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Various

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine [MEMBEROF]
[from 1994 to 1996]

Member of Board on Children and Families Roundtable on Head Start

National Women's Law Center [MEMBEROF]
[from 1998 to 2001]

Committee member

Boston Children's Service Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Various

Cambridge Young Women's Christian Association [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Various

Boston Young Women's Christian Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 1987 to 1989]

Aswalos House Program Committee Member

Beaverbrook Guidance Center [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Various

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Various

Alliance for Young Families [MEMBEROF]
[from 1983 to 1985]

**Chair of Statewide Task Force on Pregnant and Parenting Youth in
Massachusetts**

Crittenton Hastings House [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Various

National Council of Negro Woman [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Ella Lyman Cabot Trust [MEMBEROF]
[from 1990 to ?]

Trustee

Massachusetts General Physicians Organization [MEMBEROF]
[from 1995 to 1998]

Trustee

Partners Healthcare [MEMBEROF]
[from 1995 to ?]

Member

Permanent Endowment Fund for Martha's Vineyard [MEMBEROF]
[from 1997 to 2001]

Fund Committee Member

The Christian Century [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Editor-at-Large

The Society for Christian Ethics [MEMBEROF]
[from 1975 to 1976]

President

American Academy of Religion [MEMBEROF]
[from 1976 to 1976]

President

Summer Leadership Institute [MEMBEROF]
[from 1998 to 2008]

Director

[MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

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