

Curriculum Vitae – Linda Williams-Willis

Education

- Ph.D. Family and Consumer Sciences, Texas Woman's University, 1991
- M.S. Family Relations and Human Development, The Ohio State University, 1978
- B.S. Home Economics Education, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, 1977

Areas of Special Interest

- Food Systems and Food Security
- Promoting Diversity and Inclusion within the Land Grant System
- Leadership Development and Organizational Strategic Planning
- Strengthening Partnerships between 1890 and 1862 Land Grant Programs
- Urban Programming and Strategic Partnerships

Administrative Leadership and Programmatic Experience

Current Position

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

2014-Present

Urban Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives Specialist

Development of strategic partnerships in the Harris County/Houston area to advance agency programs. Primary focus areas include development of urban partnerships, program and funding models in the area of food systems, food insecurity and health disparities.

Previous Positions

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

2008-2014

County Extension Director—Harris County

Responsible for the county leadership of the third most populous county (4.5 million) in the nation. Responsibilities included the supervision of over 60 staff persons and the management of all state, federal and local resources allocated to the program. Worked closely with the Harris County Commissioners Court and the 32 state elected officials serving the county to strengthen Extension's outreach to county residents.

Prairie View A&M University

2004-2007

Dean, College of Agriculture and Human Sciences

Oversight and management of human and fiscal resources in excess of \$15 million, advancement of programs and services, acquisition of additional fiscal resources and development of strategies to strengthen the programs and enhance the integration of the teaching, research and Extension land-grant functions.

1996-2007

Administrator, Cooperative Extension Program

Provided statewide leadership and management of budget, personnel, programs and facilities for the largest 1890 Extension program in the country. Supervised a network of headquarters and county staff in the delivery of educational programs for limited resource farmers, families and communities. Interpreted programs at the state and national level.

1991-1996	Assistant Administrator—Family and Consumer Sciences Provided leadership for statewide programs focused on improving the health and quality of life for limited resource families in the state of Texas.
1986-1991	Program Specialist—Nutrition Developed educational programs and resources to support state and county work focused on improving the nutritional health and well-being of limited resource families.
University of Arkansas 1983-1986	Cooperative Extension Service County Extension Agent—Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP), Miller County Supervised nine para-professionals in the delivery of nutrition and health programs for low-income families.
Columbus Public School District 1978-1983	Consumer Vocational Home Economics Teacher, Eastman High School, Columbus, Ohio Instructed Students in the areas of child development, family relations, nutrition and family resource management.

National Educational Roles

- Member, Executive Committee, National 4-H Foundation Board of Directors 2005-2007
- Member, CSREES/USDA Joint Task Force on Managing a Changing Portfolio 2005
- Member, e-Extension National Advisory Board 2004-2005
- Chair, National Extension Leadership Development Program Advisory Board 2003-2004
- Chair, Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, Program Subcommittee, 2003-2004
- Member, Extension Committee on Organization and Policy (ECOP) 2001-2004
- Member, 21st Century National Committee on the Future of Extension 2007
- Member, Association of Extension Administrators 1996-2007
- Member, National Extension Leadership Development Program Class 3 1992-1994
- Member, ES-USDA Subcommittee on Extension Diversity 1992-1994
- Member, National Strategic Framework Team for the Decision for Health Initiative 1991-1992
- Member, ES-USDA Limited Resource Audience Task Force 1990-1991
- Member, Numerous state and regional committees

Elected and Appointed Professional Positions

- Chair, Association of Extension Administrators
- Ex-Officio Director—Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Policy Board of Directors, Board on Agriculture Assembly
- Chair, Harris County Youth and Family Services Division
- Member, Texas Governors Commission on Physical Fitness
- Co-Chair, Texas Extension Diversity Task Force
- System Consultant, USDA Health Initiative Management Team
- Member, USDA Review Team for Virginia State's College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
- Conference Manager/Facilitator, ES-USDA Strategic Framework Conference
- Participant, Leadership Texas Program for Executive Women in Texas

Accomplishments

- Focused agency efforts and visibility around food insecurity in urban Texas
- During my tenure as Administrator of the Texas CEP at PVAMU, state funding increased by 300%
- During the 80th Texas legislative session (2007), played a major role in securing \$4 million in Agriculture Match for the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
- Provided leadership for the 18 month Organizational Excellence Plan in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences to enhance all functions of the land-grant mission at PVAMU
- Established the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences Board of Advisors to better advocate and provide input on behalf of the CAHS
- Structured the CEP through an in-depth strategic plan to better address the needs of Texans with limited resources
- Received \$400,000 from the Houston Enhanced Enterprise Zone to develop the Teen Leadership Connection Program. This program was the recipient of numerous state and national awards and remains a model for outreach to urban youth.
- Provided key leadership that allowed 1890 Institutions to participate in the SNAP-Ed program. Supported the development of the FF-NEWS curriculum for teaching nutrition to diverse audiences
- During my tenure as Chair of the Association of Extension Administrators, a new strategic plan and regional program teams were established to better meet the needs of limited resource audiences in the southern and border states
- Initiated efforts that resulted in salary equity adjustments for County Extension agents with the 1890 EP program to bring their salaries in line with their 1862 counterparts
- Received \$319,000 from the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board to implement the "Hypertension Prevention Outreach Education Project."

Invited Speaker

- Keynote speaker, "Challenges Facing Women in Leadership in the Land Grant System," USDA Capstar Lecture Series, Washington, D.C. 2008
- Keynote speaker, "4-H: Addressing the Needs of Diverse Youth," National 4-H Conference, Milwaukee, WI 2006
- Speaker, "e-Extension: Using Technology to Strengthen Extension Programs," Galaxy Conference, Salt Lake City, UT 2003
- Speaker, "Leadership in the Extension System," Southern Region Middle Managers Conference, Roanoke, VA 2003
- Keynote address, "Challenges Facing Limited Resource Families," 21st Century Families Conference, Little Rock, AR 2001
- Speaker, "Extension's Role in Serving Families in Need," Texas Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Institute, Austin, TX 2000
- Speaker, "Focusing Texas Extension Programs on Urban Customers," Southern Region Extension Directors and Administrators Meeting, New Orleans, LA 2000
- Closing keynote speaker, "Implications for Extension Programs in Urban Cities," National Urban Task Force Conference, Pittsburgh, PA 1997
- Featured presenter, "1890 Extension System Strategic Directions," USDA National Satellite Conference 1997
- Speaker, "History of 1890 Extension Programs," National Extension Leadership Development Program, San Diego, CA 1996

- Speaker, "Multicultural Considerations in Curriculum Design" Oklahoma State University College of Human Environmental Science, Still Water 1995
- Speaker, "Reaching Limited Resource Audiences", National Extension Satellite Conference, the Ohio State University Columbus, OH. 1992
- Speaker, "Equitable Partnerships between 1890 and 1862 Extension Programs", National Extension Diversity Conference, Albuquerque, NM. 1992
- Speaker, "Multicultural Diversity and Implications for Extension Leadership" Northeastern Extension directors Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. 1992
- Speaker, "Valuing Diversity and Pluralism through the Cooperative Extension Faculty Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. 1992

Honors and Awards

- Recipient, Outstanding Service Award, 1890 Council of Deans 2008
- Recipient, Superior Service Award Association of Extension Administrators 2008
- Recipient, 1890 Systemwide Model Program Award for contributions to the Teen Leadership Connections (TLC) Program 2003
- Recipient, of the 1890 Systemwide Model Program Award for contributions to the Families First: Nutrition Education and Wellness System Program (FF-NEWS) 2003
- Recipient, of the Vice-Chancellor's Award in Excellence from the Texas A&M University Agriculture Program in the Extension Team Category for the Teen Leadership Connection 2002
- Recipient, of Superior Service Statewide Award from the Texas Agriculture Extension Service in the Administrative/Supervisory Category 1999
- Recipient, Prairie View A&M University Presidential New Achiever Award 1991
- Recipient, 1890 Model Program Award from the National Association of 1890 Extension Administrators for the development and implementation of the Teen Health Symposium 1990

Just for Fun

- Amateur Ethnic Fabric Artist and Vintage Silver Jewelry Designer
- Avid lover of Yorkshire Terriers