



>News & Events

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Vital Communication

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2007 MPA Graduate Named Frederick Douglass Scholar in Residence at Kutztown

Nathaniel J. Williams, one of the first graduates of Cheyney's new masters in public administration program, was awarded the Frederick Douglass Scholar in Residence position at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. As a scholar in residence, Williams will hold a variety of discussion groups including lectures on cultural responsiveness in the classroom.

In addition, to his MPA, he has recently earned his Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) at Fielding Graduate University in August, 2007. His dissertation was titled: Exploring the Professional Development Experiences of Residential Child Care Workers as They Relate to Effectiveness and Retention.

"My Cheyney MPA is a highlight of my recent educational pursuits. The dean, faculty and staff always put the students first. I would encourage my friends and colleagues to attend Cheyney's MPA and graduate programs due to its varied tracks and competent professors," Williams said. "The professors will both challenge and support you during your quest for a degree. Having the initials after your name from a reputable university isn't bad either!"

The journey from orphan to doctor of education has been both challenging and rewarding. However, Dr. Nathaniel J. Williams has proven that it can be done when a person possesses commitment, tenacity, and integrity. This journey has consisted of Williams being a direct care worker, administrator, entrepreneur, and most recently a university adjunct professor and lecturer.

Williams spent 13 years in the New York City foster care system, from the age of 5 through 18, as did 9 of his 11 siblings, upon the death of their mother from a cranial aneurism. This experience has made an indelible mark on his life and professional work. He has worked continuously to develop options and opportunities that he and his siblings did not have when he was served by the human service system.

He has been the President/CEO of HumanWorks Affiliates, Inc., a cluster of eight human services focused corporations, since 1993. These corporations provide group homes, foster care/lifesharing, supports for individuals living independently, leisure/recreation excursions, training and professional development, and the making and selling gift arrangements. He employs over 200 employees and supervises an operating budget of over 9 million dollars. Prior to 1993, Nathaniel worked as a Director of Human Resources and Operations, Unit Director, Residence Manager and Teaching Parent in organizations serving adults with mental health challenges, developmental disabilities, and dependent children.

Williams is very interested in the area of personal and professional development. He truly wants people to reach their fullest potential. He spends a great amount of time and energy in providing training and workshops for employees and community members in areas such as stress management, time management, ethics, conflict avoidance/resolution, and customer service/loyalty.

He serves on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, Inc.,

South Eastern Pennsylvania Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. and Vision for Equality, Inc. and as a member of the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs Planning Advisory Committee – Past Co-Chair, Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Stakeholder Planning Team, and the Wachovia Bank’s Business Segment Banking Advisory Board.

Williams has also developed a decision making aid called the “Navigator of Life.” He has refined this tool over the last several years and is co-authoring on a book with this same title for release in early 2008 with long time colleague Craig N. Piso, Ph.D. (www.navigatoroflife.com).

He and his wife, Tade, have six children. They reside in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.