



Dr. Ena Williams

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Dr. Ena Williams currently serves as the Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Executive at Yale New Haven Health. Most recently she served as the SVP/Chief Nursing Officer at Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH), a 1541-bed three-time ANCC Magnet® designated, level I trauma academic medical center. She is the very 1st African American CNE&CNO appointed at YNHHS and YNHH.

Dr. Ena Williams began her career in Jamaica after graduating from the University Hospital of the West Indies. She migrated to the United States and in 1991 was employed as a staff nurse at Bronx Lebanon Hospital in New York. In 1992 she joined the staff at Yale New Haven as a staff nurse in the operating room and quickly progressed through several leadership positions: Laser Coordinator, Perioperative Educator, Patient Services Manager, Nursing Director, VP, and Associate Chief Nursing Officer for Patient Services. Dr. Williams assumed the role of chief nursing officer in 2018 and led the nursing team to their first ANCC Nurse Residency PTAP Accreditation in the state of Connecticut, through the COVID-19 pandemic, leading clinical and operational teams across the health system. She also led the team to their successful third ANCC Magnet® designation in 2021. She was the first black nursing director, VP, and Senior VP and Chief Nursing Officer at Yale New Haven Hospital. In addition, she serves numerous local, state, national boards, and committees, and is active in her community. She currently serves as president-elect of the American Organization of Nursing Leadership (2024-2025) and will assume the presidency (2025 -2027). She also serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Joint Commission, and the American Nurses Association Foundation. Dr. Williams is a lifetime member of the National Black Nurses Association, a member of the Organization of Nurse Leaders (New England), and the American Organization of Nursing Leadership. Dr. Williams also serves on the University of Connecticut School of Nursing (UCON) DEIB Committee. She is an active member of her church community.

Dr. Ena Williams has been recognized with numerous awards. Named one of the 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives by Modern Healthcare (2024); Albertus Magnus College Alumni of the Year Award in honor of her outstanding professional contributions and achievements (2024); the Dorsey Kendrick Community Service Award from the CT State Community College – Gateway (2024); Community

Leadership Award from ConnCAT (2022), the Hometown Hero Award from the Gateway Community College in New Haven (2020), Leadership Award, The North American National Nigerian Nurses Association (2018), the Legendary Women Award (2018), the Trailblazer award from the National Black Nurses Association (2017), the Cornell Scott Health Leadership Award from the NAACP of greater New Haven (2015). She is a published author of nursing book chapters, journal articles and a frequent speaker at local, state, and national conferences. Dr. Ena Williams graduated from the University Hospital of the West Indies with a Diploma in Nursing, Western Governors University (BSN), Albertus Magnus College (MSM/MBA), and a PhD in Management and Leadership from Walden University. She is a graduate of the GE Health Management Nurse Executive Fellowship and is Board certified in Executive Nursing Practice from the American Organization of Nursing Leadership. She is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (2023). She was named as one of the Inaugural Fellows of the Academy of Diversity Leaders in Nursing by the National Black Nurses Association (2024)