

Biographical Sketch Rhonda Wilbon



Dr. Wilbon LCSW-C, LICSW, is a licensed clinical social worker, a certified John Maxwell Leadership Coach, professor and author. And, because of her strategic planning, problem solving, and team building skills, she is gradually becoming an international leader in curriculum and program development.

In November 2011 she was invited, by the Rev. Prof. Samuel K. Adjepong the Principal of the Methodist University in Accra Ghana, to provide leadership and consultation for the development of social work programs at the Methodist University. In April 2012 she was invited return as the opening Keynote for the International School Social Work Conference hosted by the University of Ghana at Legon. In January 2018 she was part of a delegation from the State of Maryland USA invited by the South African government, Division of Social Development, to develop the plans to meet the objectives of an MOU between the State of Maryland USA and the South African Government. As part of this project, she will be working with the Division of Social Development to establish initiatives to strengthen social programs across universities, strengthen child welfare systems, and services to help address issues of substance use disorders.

A native of Flint Michigan, USA she has over thirty-five years of professional social work experience and is an Associate Professor in the Ph.D. Program in the School of Social Work at Morgan State University, where she served as the inaugural chair of the Masters in Social Work Program for over five years, leading the program through its' initial accreditation process with the Council on Social Work Education. She has been on faculty at Morgan for twenty-two years and taught in the undergraduate, masters and PhD. Programs. Assigned full time in the PhD Program, she has chaired twelve dissertation committees and served on thirteen other committees. She teaches theory and a dissertation prep course.

Dr. Wilbon has a wealth of skills that can help strengthen any academic unit/program. She will bring problem solving, relationship building, the power of written and oral communication, building confidence, healing from life wounds, team building, interpersonal wholeness and wellness, and African centered values and ethics to everything she does. She has years of experience developing academic programs and curriculum for various courses. Her mentoring, collaborative and capacity to follow as well as lead are among her greatest strengths.

Dr. Wilbon is a Co-Founder and former Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts in the District of Columbia. She has a private psychotherapy practice in DC and Maryland specializing in work with survivors of trauma and couples/relationship counseling. In her private practice she specializes in creative approaches to help clients heal from life wounds. She is a Consulting Editor for Social Work, the top tier social work journal published by the National Association of Social Work. She has served on the Advisory Board for The House of Ruth Maryland, the largest Domestic Violence Prevention Program in the State of Maryland, and as a contract therapist for the DC Rape Crisis Center, working with adult survivors of rape and child sexual abuse. In 2015, Springer Publisher released her first edited text book, *Social Work Practice with African American's in Urban Environments*. In July 2012, she was appointed to the Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work Education, by the Council on Social Work Education.

She earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Michigan State University and a Masters and Doctorate degree in Social Work from Howard University. She has also served as the liaison for the Morgan State University Head Start Program. From December 2009 to March 2010, she hosted an on-line radio show "Real Talk" with Dr. Rhonda on Familynewsradio.com. The mission of "Real Talk" was to address the needs and interest of young adults ages eighteen to thirty-five, and give a voice to their unique view of the world and their daily life experiences. Real Talk covered a diversity of topics relevant to singles, couples and young families.

Dr. Wilbon was trained as a social worker in the field of domestic violence and formerly served as the Executive Director of a shelter program for battered women and their children in Arlington Virginia and Coordinator of the crisis hotline for the Howard County Sexual Assault Center in Maryland. It was during these intense practice experiences that she developed expertise in child maltreatment and sexual abuse and began her life-long commitment to helping adult survivors of sexual abuse and maltreatment. She has taught in the Afro-American Studies Program at the University of Maryland at College Park and in the MSW Program at Howard University. For over eight years, she was the Principal Investigator for a quality child care initiative grant to evaluate the quality of child care programs where she received over 1 million dollars in funding, through the District of Columbia, Department of Human Resources, Early Care and Education Administration. In 2000 she was appointed by Governor Parris Glendening to serve on the State of Maryland Judith P. Hoyer Blue Ribbon Commission for the Funding of Early Child Care and Education Programs; she is a past member of the United Way of Central Maryland Success By 6 Committee; and served on the State of Maryland Child Care Advisory Council from 1997-2001.

EXPERTISE

- ❖ Program Development
- ❖ Curriculum Development
- ❖ Mentoring
- ❖ Team Building
- ❖ African Centered knowledge, theory and interventions
- ❖ Healing from life wounds
- ❖ Problem solving
- ❖ Relationship Building
- ❖ Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
- ❖ Trauma
- ❖ Quality Child Care
- ❖ Popular Youth Culture
- ❖ School Social Work
- ❖ Community based academic programs
- ❖ Discipline without physical punishment
- ❖ Cultural competence
- ❖ Child Abuse and neglect

PUBLICATIONS

Anyikwa, V. A., Chiarelli-Helminiak, C. M., Hodge, D. M. & **Wells-Wilbon, R.** (2015). Women empowering women. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 51 (1-15). ISSN: 1043-7797 print / 2163-5811 online DOI: 10.1080/10437797.2015.1076283

- Wells-Wilbon, R., McPhatter, A. & Vakalahi, H. (2015). *Social Work Practice with African American's in Urban Environments*. Springer Publishing Company: NY, NY.
- Wells-Wilbon, R., Jones, K. & Rich, T. (2015). *Mental & Emotional Wellness Among African Americans in Urban Environments: What Do We Know? How Can We Improve Outcomes?* In Wells-Wilbon & McPhatter's Edition *Social Work Practice with African Americans in Urban Environments*. Springer Publishing Company: NY, NY.
- Wells-Wilbon, R., Nebbitt, V. & Lombe, M. (2015). *Youth Violence an Overview: Prevalence and Intervention Strategies to Address Violence among Urban African American Youth*. In Wells-Wilbon & McPhatter's Edition *Social Work Practice with African Americans in Urban Environments*. Springer Publishing Company: NY, NY.
- Wells-Wilbon, R. (2015). *Family planning for low-income African American families: Contributions of social work pioneer Ophelia Settle Egypt*. *Social Work*; doi 10.1093/sw/swv037
- Wells-Wilbon, R. (2013). *Tweetings @ doctor_rhonda: Words of Wisdom for Life's Journey*. Tate Publishing, Mustang Oklahoma. ISBN:978-1-62902-066-2
- Smith, B. & **Wells-Wilbon, R.** (2012) "Child Welfare Workers' Perceptions of the Influences of the Organizational Environment on Permanency Decisions for Families," *Journal of Family Strengths*: 11(1) Article 30.
- Wells-Wilbon, R., Jackson, N.D. & Schiele, J. (2010). *Lessons from the maafa: Rethinking the legacy of hip hop icon Tupac Amuru Shukur*. *Journal of Black Studies*. 40(4) 509-526.
- Wells-Wilbon, R. & Simpson, G. (2009). *Transitioning the caregiving role for the next generation: An African centered womanist perspective*. *Black Women, Gender and Families*. 3(2) 87-105.
- Wells-Wilbon, R. & Davenport Dozier, C. (2008). *The Healing Power of the Circle: A Collection of Spiritual Awakenings*, Bowie, MD: Asili Consultant, LLC in Collaboration with The National Association of Black Social Workers. Web-site: www.thehealingpowerofthecircle.com ISBN: 978-0-9815233-0-9.
- Wells-Wilbon (2008). *Quality Training Assessors Project Annual Monitor's Report Card*. District of Columbia Early Care and Education Administration.
- Wells-Wilbon, R., Simpson, G. & Hardy, K. (2008) Power Point Presentation: *African American Women & Caregiving Traditions and African Centered Womanist Perspective*. Council on Social Work Education, Annual Program Meeting, Conference Proceedings, African Americans and the African Diaspora Track, Philadelphia Pennsylvania.
- Wells-Wilbon, R. (2006). *Report on Infant and Toddler Environmental Rating Scale Scores*. District of Columbia: Department of Human Services, Early Care and Education Administration.
- Wells-Wilbon, R. (2004). *African-centered healing*. Was interviewed and made a written contribution for this chapter In R. D. Stone *No secrets no lies: How Black families can heal from sexual abuse* (pp. 114-118). New York, NY: Broadway Books.

Wells-Wilbon, R. (2003). [Book Review African American leadership: An empowerment tradition in social welfare history by Iris Carlton-LaNey]. Journal of Teaching in Social Work, 23, (3/4) 217-220.

Bent-Goodley, T. & **Wells-Wilbon, R.** (2003). Student Handbook National Academy for African Centered Social Work. The National Associational Association of Black Social Workers. Originally developed by Bent-Goodley. Revised annually by Wells-Wilbon from 2003 to 2006.

Wells-Wilbon, R. & Holland, S. (2001). Social learning theory and academic achievement: The Influence of male role models on African American children in PROJECT 2000. The Qualitative Report. 6(4). www.nova.edu/ssss/QR/QR6-4/wellswilbon.html.

Wells-Wilbon, R. & McDowell, E. (2001) Cultural competence and sensitivity: Getting it right. Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America: Cultural and Societal Influences in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. 10(4) p. 679-692.

Wells-Wilbon, R. (2000). Social Work Practice In Inner-City Schools. In S. Torres, & R. Rodrick (Eds.), Teaching School Social Work: Model Course Outlines and Resources (pp. 39-48). Council on Social Work Education: Alexandria, Virginia.

Wells-Wilbon, R. & Kizuwanda, J. (2000). The Tradition of Physical Punishment: Does it Impede or Contribute to Black Family Integrity and Stability? In A. Rogers (Eds.), The National Black Family Summit 1999 Conference Proceedings. Countering the Impediments Against Family Integrity and Stability: The Family Fights Back (pp. 308-315). College of Social Work University of South Carolina: Columbia, South Carolina.

FUNDED GRANTS

District of Columbia, Office of the State Superintendent of Education, Office of Public Charter School Financing and Support. Richard Wright Public Charter School awarded \$700,000 for Program Planning and Implementation of new charter school.

District of Columbia, Early Care and Education Administration, Quality Child Care Assessor Training Program. Awarded Second Grant for \$200,000 April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008 to evaluate the quality of subsidized child care programs.

State of Maryland Child Care Administration, co-authored a competitive grant. Awarded \$800,000 for the construction of a Child Care Center at the Morgan State University Christian Center.

Quality Assessments for Tiered Reimbursement Initiative, District of Columbia, Office of Early Childhood Development. Awarded \$1 million from October 2001 to April 1, 2007 to evaluate the quality of subsidized child care programs.

Contracted by the Office of Early childhood as the Principle Investigator to oversee environmental rating scale assessments for Tiered Reimbursement Initiative.

- Hire, train, and supervise project coordinator and assessment coordinator
- Management \$160,000- \$200,000 annual budget
- Oversee all training on environmental rating scales
- Work closely with the CEO of the Early Care & Education Administration

Quality Care for Children Initiative, District of Columbia Office of Early Childhood
Awarded \$50,000 from January 1999 to August 2001.

Subcontracted by Dr. Thelma Harms, Director of Curriculum Development at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to:

- Coordinate evaluation/research efforts
- Recruit, train, and supervise graduate level data collectors
- Coordinate scheduling of assessment pre and post test

Fallon Federal Child Care Center, Baltimore Maryland, Individualized Assessment Report. Awarded \$1,500 (July 2004).

Georgetown University, Washington, DC. Child Care Training Grant, Awarded \$4,000 (Summer 2003).

Morgan State University, Faculty Development and Research Incentives. Awarded \$5,455 Summer Research Grant (Summer 2000).

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICE

Boards

Delta Sigma Theta Public Service Sorority, Columbia Maryland Alumnae Chapter
Chair Arts & Letters Committee (August 2018- Present)

Council on Social Work Education, Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work
Education (Appointment 7/12-6/15)

Morgan State University, Head Start Program
Board of Directors (Fall 2010-2012)

House of Ruth Maryland, Baltimore Maryland
Advisory Board (Spring 2013-2015)

House of Ruth Maryland, Baltimore Maryland
Board of Directors (June 2010-2012)

Richard Wright Public Charter School for Journalism and Media Arts, District of Columbia
President, Board of Trustees (2009-Present)

National Association of Black Social Workers
Academy for African Centered Social Work
Co-Chair & Chief Instructor (Summer 2010-Present & Spring 2002-2006)

Family League of Baltimore City
Family Support Strategy Committee (2001-2002)

Baltimore City Safe Start
Screening & Assessment Development Committee (2001-2002)

United Way of Central Maryland
Success by Six Committee (2000-2005)

Prince Georges County Parent Education Advisory Board (1999-2002)

State Commissions

Judith P. Hoyer Blue Ribbon Commission for the Funding of Early Child Care and
Education Programs [Appointed by Maryland Governor Parris Glendening] (2000-2001)

Maryland Department of Human Resources Child Care Advisory Council (1997-2002)

Committees:

Co-Chair; Parent Network Initiative

Healthy Child Care Initiative

Public Awareness Campaign

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES CHAIRED

Dr. Kimberly Hardy (2010). An Exploratory Analysis of Attitudes toward Religious Help-Seeking Behaviors among African-American Christians.

Dr. James Freeman (2013). An Examination of the Relationship Between Racial Identity and Acculturation Strategies among Professional African American Social Workers.

Dr. Kenya Jones (2013). The Relationship between Ideal Mentoring and Selected Characteristics of African American Social Work Doctoral Students.

Dr. Sherry Welsh (2014). Parents of Adult Victims and Perpetrators of Domestic Violence: The Degree to Which Selected Demographic Variables and Support Mechanisms Influence Clinical Depression.

Dr. Kimberly Johnson (2014). The Impact of Childhood Sexual Abuse on Mental Health and High-Risk Behavior's in a Sample of Women.

Dr. Iris Jackson (2014). The Relationship between PTSD Symptoms, Social and Mental Health Factors, and Quality of Life Outcomes in a Sample of African-American Women Combat Veterans.

Dr. Brynez Baxter-Raone (2016). Understanding Peer Relationship: The Relationship between Cyber Bullying and Emotional Well-Being of African American Adolescents.

Dr. Turkessa Demisse (2017). Factors Affecting the Battered Professional African American Women's Domestic Violence Trajectories.

Dr. Darlene Anderson (2018). Factors of Resilience in Black Men: The Role of Microaggressions, Racial Socialization, and Discrimination.

Tonya Phillips (2018) The Invisible Heroes: Lived Experiences of Former U.S. Service Members That Were Separated with Non-Honorable Discharges Secondary to Substance Use.

Morgan School of Education and Urban Studies

Dr. Miller Newman (2007). An African Centered Critique of the Personal Experience Leadership Stories of Selected Community College Presidents. School of Education and Urban Studies, Morgan State University.

In Progress

Melissa Henley (Proposal Defense Expected May 2018)

Rhea Porter (Proposal Defense Expected Fall 2018)

Robert Mays (Proposal Defense Expected Fall 2018)

CLINICAL CONSULTANT

Youth Villages (2014 – 2017)

Clinical Supervisor

- Provide clinical supervision for LGSW staff
- Provide clinical consultation for agency

The Elizabeth Ministry

Clinical Supervisor & Psychotherapist March 2016 – May 2017

- Provide therapy to young mothers aging out of foster care
- Provide clinical supervision for agency staff

District of Columbia, Rape Crisis Center

Psychotherapist March 2010 - 2012

- Provide therapy to adult victims of rape and child sexual abuse
Facilitate groups

Asili, Consultants, LLC

Founder & CEO (January 2012-Present)

Private Clinical Therapeutic Practice, Washington DC & Bowie Maryland

Provide Psychotherapy for Adults, Couples and families

Provide Clinical Supervision for LGSW working towards clinical hours
