



JUANITA BOOKER-VAUGHNS EDD, M.ED IS CURRENTLY A COMMUNITY FACULTY INSTRUCTOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTATIVE AND SOCIAL MEDICINE AT CHARLES R. DREW UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE. SHE COMPLETED HER DISSERTATION IN 2014 THAT ADDRESSED OBESITY INTERVENTION PRACTICES IN MPH AND HIGHER EDUCATION ROLE IN WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO HELP INDIVIDUALS LOWER BMI NUMBERS. JUANITA ALSO SERVED AS THE 2020 CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED PUBLIC HEALTH CAUCUS IN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION AND IS NOW THE 2021 CHAIR OF THE CAUCUS COLLABORATIVE, OVERSEEING ALL CAUCUSES IN THE APHA.

Juanita Booker-Vaughns EdD, M.Ed

OPENING THE DOOR AS A GATEKEEPER

"My personal experience with hostile attitudes from healthcare providers made me recognize the importance of serving as a gatekeeper in healthcare and the issues rooted in the system. Opening the door as a gatekeeper involves being mindful of the culture you conduct your clinical work in and understanding the process of helping community members navigate their health. When it comes to working in health equity systems, it is important to be fair, have humility, and be culturally sensitive. Healthcare providers need to be better gatekeepers because they are creating the models for decision making. All of the biases need to be left out the door. "

COMMUNITY FACULTY GIVING VOICE TO CHILDREN AT POLICY TABLE

"I have been in research and community engagement over the past two decades in programs involving the classroom and special education. In my current role at Charles Drew as a community faculty member, I am part of a program built and designed to have grassroots providers as the bridge between the community and academic institutions. I represent the voice of children in the community as well as community partners from all walks of life when crafting research studies. My work serves to improve the efficacy of our research at the university so that it can best help the community."

BEING A DECISION MAKER IN THE APHA

"At the start of my time in the American Public Health Association (APHA), people of color were not in the executive roles. I was able to see how public health policy is made on a national level and in my seven years in the APHA, I became the Community-Based Public Health Caucus chair and now the Caucus Collective chair, allowing me to bring the community perspective to APHA's work towards achieving better population health and health equity."