

## Felita T. Williams, Ph.D.

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### *25+ years of experience in higher education providing successful strategic leadership and management in uniquely challenging situations*

Dynamic, results-oriented leader with a strong track record of performance in high-paced institutions and systems; Utilize keen analysis, insights, and team approach to drive organizational improvements and implementation of proven practices; Superior team building and interpersonal skills, capable of resolving complex issues and motivating staff to peak performance.

#### **Professional Experience:**

##### **Senior Vice President for Services**

**2023 - Present**

Gardner Institute

Brevard, North Carolina

The Gardner Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to partnering with colleges, universities, philanthropic organizations, educators and other entities to increase institutional responsibility for improving outcomes related to teaching, learning and completion. The Gardner Institute works to ensure that race, family income, and zip codes are no longer the leading determinants of who earns a college degree. At the Institute she will work with staff on the delivery, continuous improvement and evolution of various service lines.

##### **Vice Chancellor for Student & Faculty Success**

**2022 – 2023**

Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Atlanta, Georgia

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) is the governing and management authority over 26 colleges and universities: four research universities, four comprehensive universities, 9 state universities, 9 state colleges. These institutions, located in communities across Georgia, enroll over 300,000 students and employ over 35,000 faculty and staff.

The Office of Student & Faculty Success (S&FS) collaborates with institutional faculty, staff, and other USG offices to advance student success and faculty excellence. This office supports the goals of both the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Student Affairs. This senior level position reports to the Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief of Academic Officer. The VC also leads and manages several system wide offices:

- African American Male Initiative (AAMI)
- Adult Learner Success

- Teaching & Learning Excellence
- GEAR UP Georgia
- Military Affairs
- Student Success & Completion
- Success in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)

VC serves as a USG liaison to several Regents Advisory Committees:

- Regents Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs (RACAA)
- Regents Advisory Committee of Chief Diversity Officers (CDO)
- Regents Advisory Committee on Continuing Education
- Regents Advisory Committee on Political Science

**Senior Fellow**

**2022 – Present**

Gardner Institute  
Brevard, North Carolina

The John Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education is a non-profit organization that partners with colleges, universities, philanthropic organizations, educators, and other entities to increase institutional responsibility and capacity for improving outcomes associated with teaching, learning, retention, and completion.

Notable Accomplishments:

- Presents with Gardner Institute colleagues at three SACSCOC annual convenings
- Represents Gardner Institute on projects with The Gates Foundation and Strong Start to Finish

**Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Academic Initiatives**

**2000 – 2022**

Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia  
Atlanta, Georgia

The Office of Strategic Academic Initiatives (SAI) is a unique academic affairs unit that supports the goals of both Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. The units that comprise SAI provide leadership, data proven processes and resources to students, faculty, and staff throughout the USG, K-12 partnerships and other state agencies. This senior level position reports to the Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief of Academic Officer. The AVC leads and manages several system-wide offices:

- African American Male Initiative (AAMI)
- Adult Learner Success
- GEAR UP Georgia
- Military Affairs
- Success in STEM

The AVC serves as a USG liaison:

- Regents Advisory Committee on Academic Affairs (RACAA)
- Regents Advisory Committee of Chief Diversity Officers (CDO)
- Regents Advisory Committee on Continuing Education

- Regents Advisory Committee on Political Science

#### Notable Accomplishments

- Establishes and manages course redesign using the G2C process (Gardner Institute solution). 25 USG institutions redesigns academic courses – the redesign impacts 33,352 total class sections selected for analysis, involves 881 faculty & staff, and touches 764,089 students.
- Organizes the annual course redesign system wide meetings
- Facilitates the USG's annual Diversity & Inclusion Summits in conjunction with the Chief Diversity Officer Advisory Committee

#### **Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Partnerships & Accreditation 2015 – 2020** Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Atlanta, Georgia

The Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Partnerships & Accreditation ensures programmatic excellence, rigorous program evaluation, and consistent quality of administration, communications and reporting of academic program initiatives. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Academic Initiatives works with other state coordinating boards; higher education agencies, designated special groups and handles other projects as assigned.

#### Notable accomplishments:

- Serves as the USG liaison to Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
- Administers and monitors the Regional Contract Program
- Serves on the SREB Advisory Board of the Doctoral Scholars
- Represents the USG on Georgia's 2020 Census Committee
- Facilitates the USG's annual Diversity & Inclusion Summits in conjunction with the Chief Diversity Officer Advisory Committee

#### **Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning** **2009 – 2015** University System of Georgia Atlanta, Georgia

The Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Planning is responsible for researching policy issues, organizing meetings and events. Including representing the USG with Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

#### Notable Accomplishments:

- Coordinates the work of 13 Regents Academic Advisory Committees in the development the General Education Transfer Agreement between the USG and the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). The transfer agreement includes the alignment of 28 general education courses across 13 disciplines.
- Serves on the committee to select USG Peer institutions
- Serves as the Academic Affairs representative on the College Access Challenge Grant
- Facilitates the USG's annual Diversity & Inclusion Summits in conjunction with the Chief Diversity Officer Advisory Committee

**Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor  
for Academics, Faculty and Student Affairs**  
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

**2005 – 2009**

Handles a variety of duties for the office for the Vice Chancellor. These duties include researching policy issues, organizing meetings and events, representing the Office of Academic Affairs at various meetings and events.

**Notable Accomplishments:**

- Represents the Office of Academic Affairs in the planning and execution of the inauguration of two Chancellors
- Works on committee to update the Academic & Student Affairs Handbook
- Works on committee to revise the USG academic calendar
- Represents the USG on Georgia's 2010 Census Committee
- Serves on the Porter Scholarship Committee
- Facilitates the USG's annual Diversity & Inclusion Summits in conjunction with the Chief Diversity Officer Advisory Committee (2009)

**Provost, Decatur Campus**  
Georgia Perimeter College  
Decatur, Georgia

**2003 – 2005**

Prior to merging with Georgia State University, Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) is an associate degree granting college of the University System of Georgia serving the metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia. The institution had 5 locations around the city: Clarkston (GA), Decatur County (GA), Dunwoody (GA), Lawrenceville (GA) and Conyers (GA). Responsibilities of the Provost includes:

- Leads and manages the Provost Cabinet
- Provides strategic and operational management for the Decatur Campus' fiscal and physical resources
- Serves as a member of the GPC Executive Team

- Creates partnerships with K – 12 educational partners, other post-secondary institutions, business entities and the community

Notable accomplishments as Provost:

- Prepares a successful budget recommendation that expands the Decatur Campus academic departments from two to four with appropriate secretarial support
- Achieves highest retention rate FY 03-04 of any GPC campus
- Enhances graduation rate – the Decatur Campus is one of three GPC campuses with a growing graduation rate
- Continues enrollment growth – Decatur Campus has achieved higher than average enrollment growth for the past three consecutive years

### **Vice President for Advancement and External Affairs**

**2001 – 2003**

Georgia Perimeter College  
Decatur, Georgia

The Vice President for Advancement and External Affairs leads and manages the following offices:

- Institutional Advancement
- Grants and Sponsored Programs
- Public Relations
- Institutional Research
- Develops and monitors the GPC strategic plan
- Participates as a member of the GPC Executive Team
- Coordinates the Kaleidoscope Leadership Institute

Notable accomplishments as Vice President for Advancement and External Affairs:

- GPC's first TRIO grant – Student Support Service Grant, US Department of Education
- Acquires \$1 million dollar Transportation Enhancement grant – first million-dollar grant in history of the College
- Directs best four quarters of fundraising in the history of GPC (2000-2001)
- Public Relations Office awards
  - Awarded the National Council on Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District Conference awards
  - First place gold for a Promotional Campaign – MLK, Jr. Birthday Celebration
  - 2003 First place gold for a College Magazine – the *Chronicle* magazine;
  - 2002 First place gold for a View Book – Recruitment publication;
  - 2002 First-place gold for a brochure – Nursing scholarships brochure (Produced with the Office of Institutional Advancement);
  - Second place silver award for an Annual Report – the President's Annual Report;
  - 2002 Third-place bronze for an Employee Newsletter – *The Orb* 2003 issues

**Executive Assistant to the President**  
Georgia Perimeter College  
Decatur, Georgia

**1997 – 2001**

The Executive Assistant to the President handles special projects for the President.

- Oversees of Shared Governance
- Provides problem-solving strategies
- Prepares reports assigned by the President for submission to the University System of Georgia, Board of Regents
- Drafts correspondence, speeches and represents the President upon request
- Coordinates the Kaleidoscope Leadership Institute
- Coordinates the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

Notable accomplishments as Executive Assistant to the President:

- Conceptualizes and implements a rotational schedule of Board service for members of the Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) Foundation Board
- Develops and institutes board training retreat for the GPC Foundation Board with a consultant to assist in strategic planning, fundraising and implementation of the plan
- Receives the Atlas Award (GPC award presented by the President of the college)

### **Teaching Experience**

**eCore**  
University of North Georgia  
Dahlonega, Georgia

**Summer 2023**  
Fall 2014

**DeKalb College (currently Georgia Perimeter College)**  
Instructor of Political Science  
South Campus  
Decatur, Georgia

**1995 – 1997**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**  
The University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

**1993 – 1994**

### **Professional Development:**

**Intercultural Competence & The Future of Work Convening**  
Lumina Foundation  
Washington, District of Columbia

**2022**

**University Leadership Summit**  
Palm Beach, Florida

**2019**

**Leadership Atlanta**  
Atlanta, Georgia

**Class of 2007**

**Executive Leadership Institute**  
League of Innovation

**2001**

**Georgia Association for Women in Higher Education**

**Present**

### **Selected Presentations:**

- First College Year with Dr. Betsy Barefoot, Dr. Vicki McGillin, Dr. Sara Koch and Dr. John Gardner, A Symposium on Transforming the Foundational Postsecondary Experience, June 2023, Asheville, North Carolina
- Socially Just Design for The First College Year, Gateway Courses, and Transfer with Dr. John Gardner and Dr. Drew Koch, SACSCOC Annual Meeting, December 2022, Atlanta, Georgia
- Socially Just Design in Postsecondary Education: Stronger Pandemic and Racial Equity Responses through Redesigned Teaching and Learning presentation with Dr. Peter Felton, Dr. Drew Koch; Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Annual Meeting, Virtual, December 2021
- Strong Start to Finish webinar presenter with the Gardner Institute  
Zoom Meeting July 2020  
Atlanta, Georgia
- Momentum Year – Reimagining Gateway Courses and the First Year in Georgia presentation with Dr. Tristan Denley & Dr. Drew Koch, SACSCOC Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, December 2018

### **Education:**

**Doctor of Philosophy Degree**

**1995**

The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
Concentrations: American Politics,  
Public Administration  
International Relations

**Master of Public Administration** 1991  
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

**Bachelor of Science** 1982  
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
Major: Marketing  
Minor: Management