



In Memoriam of Dr. Carolyn Williams

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Carolyn Williams, close friend and supporter of the Global Citizenship Alliance, who died at the age of eighty-one in her home city of Detroit, Michigan.

In 1996, Carolyn was named the fourth president of Bronx Community College and the first woman to hold this position from which she retired in 2011, after fifteen years of dedicated service to the College and to the wider community of the Bronx and beyond. Under her leadership, BCC redoubled in size and quality while she never tired of firmly placing the success of her students at the center of all her efforts. Her commitment, coupled with the energy and grace of a real Motown native, earned her nationwide recognition and the respect and affection of her colleagues.

Carolyn was one of the founding members of the Global Citizenship Alliance (GCA) when, together with a group of about ten of her peers at the helm of community colleges across the U.S., she attended a seminar in Salzburg in the summer of 2004 which became the launch pad for the program's lasting advancement.

During the following years, and especially during the time that I spent at BCC as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence in the spring of 2008, I was blessed with forming a close collegial friendship with Carolyn. She taught me that community colleges are first and foremost engines of change and self-empowerment by those who are typically overlooked and underrepresented within a larger system of higher education that far too often works as a conduit for the perpetuation of privilege. Carolyn devoted her professional life to right the wrongs of this system by fighting for educational opportunity and justice in the name of the chronically underserved.

Upon her retirement in 2011, when Carolyn was asked about her legacy, she highlighted, among other things, the following: "One of the major things I'm proud of was what I referred to as our global initiative. It's not just study abroad and the influx of international students, but the curriculum and the whole climate of the college. We were able to bring global issues into our community."¹ This reference to the close collaboration between BCC and the GCA is an honor as much as it is an obligation to carry on Carolyn's vision to make BCC a site of global citizenship.

Carolyn will always be remembered fondly by her friends and colleagues as a strong and caring leader who embodied the spirit of kindness and a passionate commitment to social justice. She will be missed immensely.

Jochen Fried
President

¹ <https://www.bxtimes.com/bcc-president-dr-williams-retires-after-15-years/>