

Brief Bio for Dr. Darlene V. Willis

Dr. Darlene V. Willis currently serves as the Executive Administrative Officer for the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at the University of California, San Diego. She is a Senior Manager responsible for new initiatives, community relations, strategic planning, student service delivery model including a comprehensive student web portal, serving as a liaison to UCSD undergraduate and graduate students as well as developing partnerships with the internal and external community.

Dr. Willis is originally from the Bay Area and has worked in higher education for the past 16 years. She proudly acknowledges that she is a first generation college student, former EOP student and a woman of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Dr. Willis is a product of the UC system and has worked for Lawton School, Mills College, Cal State Hayward and Cal State San Marcos. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of CA, Irvine, a Master of Arts and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Organizational Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Willis is a 2003 graduate of Harvard University's Institute for Management and Leadership on Education. Dr. Willis is also the Co-Founder of Concerned Parents Alliance, Inc. and the Co-Chair of its educational component entitled College Bound San Diego: A program in direct response to the educational achievement gap and its impact on the African American community.

God has truly blessed Dr. Willis and she acknowledges that "growing up in the inner city provided an all around experience that helped shape my determination to break the cycle and make a difference so I could give back to my community."

She is married to Phillip Willis Jr. and they have two sons named Phillip III and James Cornelius.