



PROFESSIONAL BIO

Doris Gray Brown, MEd, MS, APRN, CNS, is a distinguished public health executive, nursing leader, educator, and community advocate with more than 40 years of experience in healthcare leadership, emergency preparedness, public health systems, and civic service. Known for her strategic vision, steady leadership, and commitment to service, Brown has dedicated her career to strengthening healthcare delivery systems, advancing public health equity, and mentoring the next generation of leaders.

Brown retired from the Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, where she served as Assistant Secretary, providing executive leadership for more than 55 public health programs, 1,200 employees, and a multi-billion-dollar budget. Her career with the Office of Public Health included historic leadership roles, including serving as the first African American Chief Public Health Nurse and the first African American to lead Public Health Preparedness in Louisiana.

A recognized leader in nursing and emergency preparedness, Brown has served as a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow and was inducted into the Louisiana State Nurses Association Nursing Hall of Fame. Her areas of expertise include strategic planning, public health and medical services, emergency preparedness and response, policy development, legislative affairs, leadership development, fiscal management, and community health.

Her professional and community impact extends across numerous organizations. She is a Life Member of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., where she has served locally, regionally, and nationally, including as Past President of the Nonpareil Chapter, Area I Resolutions Chair, National COVID Task Force Chair, and Co-Chair of the National Risk Management Committee. She is also a devoted member of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc., where she has served in chapter leadership and was named MiddleSouth Region Soror of the Year for 2024.



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Brown is also a Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she has served in key leadership roles including Chapter President, State Director, Regional Social Action Coordinator, and National Social Action Commissioner. She has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Delta Research and Educational Foundation, the Franchell Boswell Educational Foundation, the NAACP, NCNW, and other civic and service organizations committed to education, health, leadership, and community advancement.

Academically, Brown earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northeast Louisiana State University, a Master of Education in Counseling from Southern University and A&M College, and a Master of Science in Nursing with concentrations in Community Health Nursing and Nursing Administration from the University of Southern Mississippi. She is recognized by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing as an Advanced Practice Nurse and Clinical Nurse Specialist in Community Health.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Brown is deeply committed to family, faith, mentorship, and community service. She and her husband, Adell Brown, have been married for more than four decades and are the proud parents of three daughters. Through every role she has held, Doris Gray Brown continues to model excellence, servant leadership, and a lifelong commitment to improving lives and strengthening communities.

Recognitions and Awards

Top Lady Senior Diva of the Year, Area 1 2024
Top Lady (President) of the year for Area 1
Top Lady of the Year for Area 1 (Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma,) 2023
Baton Rouge NAACP- President's Award 2023
Louisiana Public Health Association- MERITIAS AWARD 2023
Top Ladies of Distinction Inc. – Outstanding Leadership Award 2021
National Homeland Security- Mission Award: Coronavirus 2020
Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Career Civil Service Award 2015
Martin Luther King – Leadership Award 2015

Greek Excellent Award 2014- LSU
Community Servant Award 2010- ALPHA PHI ALPHA
Louisiana State Nursing Association, Nursing Hall of Fame 2008
Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow 2008
Louisiana Public Health Association, Member of the Year 2006 &
American Heart Association, Woman with Heart Winner 2006
Louisiana Department of Health, Quantum Leader Nurse of the Year 2005
"Lighten Up, Louisiana" Co-Chair, Governor's Statewide Health Initiative 2004