

Lusharon Wiley, Ed.D.
September 20, 2021
Bio Sketch

As Vice President of Corporate Culture at Innisfree Hotels, a Florida-based hotel management, marketing and development company, Dr. Lusharon Wiley is responsible for managing the company's culture practices and providing expertise and support in the areas of employee engagement and retention, diversity and inclusion, culture training and navigating difference.

Hailing from Valdosta, Georgia, Lusharon joined the Innisfree team as Director of Culture in 2017. She holds an undergraduate degree from Tuskegee University, a master's degree from the University of Illinois Chicago, and a doctorate from the University of West Florida in Diversity Studies. She is also a graduate of the Social Justice Training Institute, Kouzes and Posner's Leadership Challenge, the Donald Gehring Institute, and Leadership Pensacola.

Lusharon worked in both Academic Affairs and Student Affairs while at the University of West Florida. She founded and participated in multiple inclusion and diversity groups and committees during her long and successful career with the University of West Florida. She founded the Military Connections program in recognition of the service of veterans and their families, and the Inclusion Spotlight, a program highlighting the accomplishments of diverse people in the community. Lusharon was also the founder of the Argo Pantry, a program that focuses on making sure University of West Florida students always have access to food and personal care items.

Lusharon Wiley is committed to making a difference in her community where she serves as Chair of the WSRE-TV Foundation Board and is an Executive Board member of Visit Pensacola.

Education

Doctor of Education

University of West Florida
Specialization: Diversity Studies

May 2007
Pensacola, FL

Master of Arts in Political Science

University of Illinois at Chicago
Specialization: Program Evaluation and Design

December 1974
Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

Tuskegee University
Specialization: Political Science & pre-law

May 1973
Tuskegee, AL

Publications & Articles

Wiley, L. (2021). *"I See You"': Lusharon Wiley Continues Diversity, Inclusion Efforts in Decades-Long Career.* Pensacola News Journal.

Wiley, L. (2020). *5 Steps We Must Take to Truly Create an Inclusive, Representative and Equitable Society.* Medium's Authority Magazine.

Wiley, L. (2018). *Feature article on my life's journey as a successful woman.* Out Front Magazine.

Wiley, L. (2018). *Difference, Diversity, and Sensitivity Among Ourselves and For Our Clients.* Florida Association of Aging Services Providers, Volume 62/January/February 2018

Wiley, L. (2018) *"Agent for Change"*. Bella Magazine, Pensacola News Journal.

Wiley, L. (2017). *Social Justice Advocate an Angel for Change.* Pensacola News Journal.

Wiley, L. (2015). *Can Mindfulness Align Us With Success?* Powerful Women of the Gulf Coast Magazine.

Wiley, L. (2010) StoryCorps interview with Civil Rights icon, Reverend H. K. Matthews. Archived in the Library of Congress.

Ford, D, Northrup, P. and Wiley, L. (2009) *New Directions for Student Services. Connections, Partnerships, Opportunities, and Programs to Enhance Success for Military Students.* Wiley Periodicals.

Wiley, L. et al. (2007) American Association of State Colleges and Universities *Hispanic Student Success in State Colleges and Universities: Creating Supportive Spaces on our Campuses*, Research team member that visited Chico State University, Hammang et.al.

Wiley, L. (2007). *An Agent for Change: The Story of Reverend H.K. Matthews* (doctoral dissertation). University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL.

Wiley, L. (1998). *When Black Folks Was Colored*. Anthology of selected writings. *Mama N'em*. African American Heritage Society of Pensacola.

Thought Leader/Planner/Implementer

Planned and implemented numerous programs and initiatives while employed at the University of West Florida including the following:

Military Connections – planned and implemented the first campus-wide events to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of military members and their families. This included starting the first Memorial Day and Veterans Day observance programs at the University of West Florida.

Common Ground Diversity and Peer Mentoring Group – developed the manual and started the program to facilitate discussions and trainings for students and staff on issues of diversity and inclusion.

Student Transition Conference (for professionals working with students with disabilities) – started a yearly conference for professionals from local high schools, social services agencies and colleges that served students with disabilities to minimize the problems associated with transitioning to institutions of higher education.

Inclusion Spotlight – began a bi-yearly event to focus on people in the community who were making a difference. This initiative underscores the value of knowing “the people in our neighborhood.”

Discussing the Un-Discussable – started this campus-wide initiative to create a space for discussing issues of difference and issues of social injustice.

Argo Pantry – founder and director of the Argo Pantry which is a resource for students enrolled at the University who are facing food insecurity.

Race and Reconciliation – founding member of this UWF-led community-wide social action initiative to discuss and explore racial tensions in Pensacola.

SPLC on Campus – responsible for the University of West Florida being designated as a Southern Poverty Law Center Campus by spearheading the efforts to bring social justice initiatives to campus. UWF is one of the few colleges and universities recognized by SPLC as a campus that supports and implements social justice initiatives.

Multicultural Competency – Lead contributor to the creation and development of a five-module curriculum on multicultural competency for the Division of Student Affairs at the University of West Florida for training student affairs employees on multicultural competency and inclusion. Responsible for coordinating and facilitating the training.

Volunteer Activities

Chair, WSRE-TV Foundation Board

Board member, Visit Pensacola

Founding Member, Equity Project Alliance

Member, United Way of West Florida Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy Team

Member, Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce

Member, Gulf Coast Citizens Diplomacy Council

Member, Powerful Women of the Gulf Coast

Member, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated

Board Member, Greater Pensacola Tuskegee Alumni Club (GPTAC)