

Dr. Floyd L. Williams

Education

Dr. Floyd Williams is a prolific author and distinguished professor of mathematics; he is also an ordained minister and a formally trained musician. A product of Kansas City, MO, Dr. Williams grew up in abject poverty but certainly not poor of spirit. Inspired by his mother, he lives a life filled with the richness of professional acclaim, the joy of serving others and the sustaining grace of a loving God.

Drawn to Lincoln University by an unexpected music scholarship, Floyd was not a particularly good math student. In his sophomore year, however, he became inexplicably intrigued by the Theory of Relativity. That fascination became his motivation for changing his major to mathematics. Ultimately, it culminated in his earning a Ph.D. from Washington University (MO) in 1972.

From his dissertation focused on the Lie Theory to his early years as an instructor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the principles of math have been his career theme. By 1975, he was an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts. In 1983, he received an MRI Grant to continue his research, and thus, it ushered him into the mainstream of mathematics in higher education. During his distinguished career as a professor and researcher, Dr. Williams has published many significant books and scholarly papers in his field in addition to having taught at State University of New York. Currently, he is Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts.

Dr. Williams has travelled extensively, lecturing internationally at various universities and scientific conferences. For 40-plus years, Dr. Williams has given of his time and talents to encourage and mentor students with a desire for careers in STEM disciplines. Many of those students were African-Americans who saw in him a level of expertise and accomplishment that they could are hope for themselves.