



**Improving The Lives Of Children And Families - The Hidden Gem Of The Tax Code**  
**A Funder Convening at the 2024 Prosperity Summit**  
**Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center**  
**201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD**

**Speaker Bios**

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**Mark D. Constantine**

Mark D. Constantine joined the Dogwood Health Trust team in April 2023 as Senior Vice President of Community Investment. Prior to joining Dogwood, Mark served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Richmond Memorial Health Foundation (RMHF). He has served as senior vice president at the Jessie Ball duPont Fund in Jacksonville, Florida, where he directed the Program-Related Investment and affordable housing activities of the Fund.

Mark served for more than a decade as a consultant to foundations and national nonprofit organizations on issues related to governance, strategy, and learning. His clients included CFED, Demos, First Nations Development Institute, Ford Foundation, Lilly Endowment, Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Southern Education Foundation. In addition, he served as the assistant executive director of the Kathleen Price Bryan Family Fund and as a senior fellow of the Foundation for the Mid-South.

Mark has authored two books, *Wit and Wisdom: Unleashing the Philanthropic Imagination* (2009) and *Travelers on the Journey: Pastors Talk about Their Lives and Commitments* (2005), as well as the award-winning monograph, "Where Hope and History Rhyme: Reflections and Findings from the Mid-South Commission to Build Philanthropy (2005)." *Wit and Wisdom* was selected by the 2009 Philanthropy Annual Review as one of the two "notable titles" in the Social Justice Philanthropy category.

He holds a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an MBA from the Fuqua School of Business (Duke University), and a Master of Theological Studies degree from Duke Divinity School. He was a 2006/2007 Fellow of the Emerging Leaders Program directed by the Centers for Leadership at Public Values at the University of Cape Town and Duke University. He serves as the Immediate Past Chair of the Virginia Funders Network, Co-Chair for the Jeffress Trust Awards Program in Research Advancing Health Equity and has served as a faculty member for the Grantmakers in Health Terrance Keenan Institute for Emerging Leaders in Health Philanthropy.



**Parita Patel**

Parita Patel, senior program officer, joined the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in 2022, bringing her extensive philanthropic experience in the public and private sectors—and her knowledge of the power structures that change society—to support the Foundation’s efforts in helping all families enjoy a fair and just opportunity for health and wellbeing. Drawn to RWJF by its long-term focus on racial and economic equity, she relishes the opportunity to help expand efforts in building a national Culture of Health and driving programming toward

a future when all families can participate in the economy.

Prior to joining RWJF, Parita held several senior programmatic roles for philanthropic initiatives and policy change efforts in Washington, D.C. and New York. She worked as a senior advisor and program officer for the Social Innovation Fund, an Obama-administration initiative designed to use evidence of impact to guide social policy, and as a director at Stand Together Foundation, advising on investment strategy for donors and building strategic partnerships with nonprofits.

In earlier positions, Parita designed and implemented strategic corporate citizenship programs on behalf of Changing Our World, a social impact consulting firm. She also coordinated programs for Leveraging Investments in Creativity, a philanthropic experiment to create a support system for artists in the United States. She served as a program director for Cable Positive, where she led peer-to-peer health programming for high school students; and she was a program associate for Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a joint initiative between the American Heart Association and the Clinton Foundation to respond to the growing rate of childhood obesity.

Parita earned a BA in Public Policy and Social Change from Bentley University in Massachusetts. Inspired by her father’s sense of fairness and justice, she followed in his footsteps and studied law at the University of Bristol in England.

Parita was born in London and has lived in the United States for over 25 years. She resides in New Jersey with her husband where they enjoy raising their son, instilling in him an appreciation for nature, and when time permits visiting family and friends around the world. Over the years she has spent considerable time in Europe, and in exploring her ancestral roots in Gujarat, India.



**Kathy Stohr**

Kathy Stohr, MPP, has been a program officer at the Pritzker Children’s Initiative since 2017. In this role, she manages a portfolio of investments aimed at improving outcomes for children and families in the prenatal-to-age-3 period. Kathy has worked in the early childhood policy and advocacy arena for more than 20 years at the grassroots and state levels, in the public and private sectors, as an advocate and as an implementer. Most recently, Kathy served as the deputy director of the Illinois Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development. Kathy earned her bachelor’s degree in foreign service and master’s in public policy at Georgetown University



### **Erica Williams**

Erica Williams joined DCFPI in April 2021 as Executive Director. In this role, she leads the team in achieving its mission to shape racially-just tax, budget, and policy decisions for an antiracist, equitable future.

Erica is a dynamic leader who excels at building relationships, consensus, and collective vision across a range of stakeholders. She brings nearly two decades of experience in pursuing racial, gender, and economic justice through public policy and is grounded in how fiscal and economic policies can advance or impede justice. Driven by her own lived experience, Erica holds a deep commitment to antiracism, equity, and inclusion and is committed to centering Black and brown lived experiences in DCFPI's pursuit of equity and justice for communities sidelined by racism and economic inequality.

Prior to joining DCFPI, Erica was Vice President for State Fiscal Policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. In this role, she helped lead the organization and its 40-person State Fiscal Policy division, and supported and shaped the efforts of the State Priorities Partnership—a network of over 40 state-level fiscal and economic policy shops (including DCFPI) working to reduce poverty and inequality and advance equity and opportunity. In addition to deep state tax and budget analyses, Erica oversaw and grew equity-focused policy initiatives on state Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs), poverty reduction, and immigration, and spearheaded a major effort to deepen the equity and inclusion focus of the state team and the Partnership as a whole.

Before joining CBPP, Erica worked as a Study Director at the Institute for Women's Policy Research, where she researched a variety of issues of concern to women, and especially women of color, including equal pay, job training and education, early care and education, Social Security, and civic engagement. Erica holds a B.A. in Sociology and Spanish studies from Santa Clara University and an M.A. in international policy from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.