

Linda H. Scruggs, DLH, MHS, LPC

The educator, activist, and leader in the HIV community for over 33 years. Her start in HIV was as a women's health advocate shortly after her HIV diagnosis in 1990 at Johns Hopkins. Since that time, she has denounced stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

In 2012, Linda co-founded Ribbon: The Center of Excellence. A national nonprofit and leading provider of skill-building training, technical assistance, sustainable organizational development, and leadership development services. Ribbon facilitates engagement with policymakers, government agencies, and national HIV organizations, bolstering its ability to address HIV-related challenges and health disparities on a national scale. Furthermore, Ribbon has earned distinction as a key convener and thought leader, offering initiatives in organizational development and policy advocacy. Their reputation as a premier provider of skill-building training, technical assistance, sustainable organizational growth, and leadership development has made them sought-after across the United States.

Linda's role at Ribbon is Project lead for two National Organizing Centers for Gilead's HIV Age Positively and the PACE Black Women and Girls Initiatives. Both organizing centers provide comprehensive technical assistance to grantee partner organizations to strengthen their capacity to respond to the changing social and healthcare needs of an aging HIV population and the organizations supporting Black CIS and transgender Women and Girls.

Over the past 33 years, her accomplishments have been many, as she stands to be a positive voice in the HIV community. Her favorites are being a mother and wife, in 2010, an Honorable Mention by President Barack Obama. 2012, a plenary speaker at the International AIDS Conference, and most recently, in January 2024, bestowed with an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters D.H.L. from Breakthrough Bible College & Theological Seminary for her commitment to service and teaching as an Evangelist of the teaching of Jesus Christ

Simply stated, Linda has committed a portion of her life to ensuring the health and rights of persons living with and vulnerable to HIV are high priorities to policymakers, systems of care, research communities, and the communities in which these individuals live and play.