

Summit Honorees



Dr. Uché Blackstock

[Dr. Uché Blackstock](#) is the founder and Chief Advisor of [Advancing Health Equity \(AHE\)](#), appears regularly on MSNBC and NBC News, and is a former associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and the former faculty director for recruitment, retention, and inclusion in the Office of Diversity Affairs at NYU School of Medicine.

In 2019, Dr. Blackstock founded AHE with the mission of partnering with healthcare organizations to dismantle racism in healthcare and to close the gap in racial health inequities. In its five years of existence, AHE has helped major companies, hospitals, and health systems create strategic plans for promoting equitable health care moving forward.

Dr. Blackstock has received numerous awards, including the American Medical Women's Association's 2021 Presidential Award, the 2021 Harvard Humanist of the Year, and the NAACP Brooklyn Chapter's 2022 Valiant Service Award. Her writing, including numerous OpEds, has been featured in the Chicago Tribune, Scientific American, the Washington Post and New York Magazine.

She was recognized by Forbes magazine, in 2019, as one of "[10 Diversity and Inclusion Trailblazers You Need to Get Familiar With](#)", in 2023 by Fortune Magazine as one of "[13 Innovators Shaping the Future of Health](#)", and in 2024, as one of TIME's "[100 Most Influential People in Health](#)".

Dr. Blackstock received both her undergraduate and medical degrees from Harvard University, making her and her twin sister, Oni, the first Black mother-daughter legacy graduates from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Blackstock's generational memoir, [LEGACY: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine](#) was published by Viking Books on January 23, 2024 and became an instant New York Times best-seller.

Dr. Blackstock currently lives in her hometown of Brooklyn, New York, with her two school-age children.



Dr. Eishelle M. Hargrave-Tillery, DSW

With over 25 years of experience in public health and social services, **Dr. Eishelle M. Hargrave-Tillery** has made profound contributions to HIV/AIDS prevention, mental health, and supportive housing. Her leadership has shaped impactful programs at organizations such as Harlem Dowling, Bailey House, GMHC, Iris House, and NYC Health + Hospitals. A dedicated advocate, she has held key roles including **Community Co-Chair of the NYC HIV Planning Group** and **Co-Chair of the NYS HIV Advisory Body**.

Dr. Tillery earned her Doctor of Social Work from **Tulane University** and her MSW from **Fordham University**, specializing in Client-Centered Management and Gerontology. She has been recognized with the **NYC Health Commissioner's Award** on World AIDS Day and the **Outstanding Student of Excellence Award** from Tulane for her research on the mental health needs of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.

Her academic influence spans **John Jay College, Columbia University, and Molloy University**, where she integrates real-world experience into her teaching on advocacy, race and ethnicity, aging, and community justice. In addition to serving as **Principal Investigator** for a study at Destination Tomorrow, she leads her own firm, **Tillery Consulting LLC**, supporting nonprofits with program design and evaluation.



Raniyah Copeland, MPH

A fierce advocate, visionary leader, and nationally recognized strategist, **Raniyah Copeland** has spent over 17 years advancing racial and health equity at the highest levels of public health. Her work centers Black communities and other communities of color, transforming systems through upstream thinking, bold leadership, and deep-rooted advocacy.

As a results-driven executive, Raniyah has led organizations through extraordinary growth—**doubling revenue and tripling staff** in under three years—while cultivating cross-sector partnerships and driving powerful, community-centered interventions. She is a master of aligning vision with execution, known for her ability to mobilize resources, inspire teams, and deliver impact that lasts.

Named one of *The Root's 100 Most Influential African Americans* in 2019, Raniyah's voice and leadership continue to shape the national conversation on health justice. She holds an MPH from Charles Drew University and a BA in African American Studies with a public health focus from UC Berkeley.



Alicia Diggs, MPH

A Philadelphia native now residing in North Carolina, **Alicia Diggs** is an accomplished author, humanitarian, and advocate. With a bachelor's degree in Social Work, a master's degree in Public Health, and doctoral studies focused on Advocacy and Leadership in Public Health, Alicia is deeply committed to advancing HIV/AIDS awareness, with a focus on empowering Black women living with HIV.

Currently serving as the **Manager for the Office of Community Engagement** at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Center for AIDS Research (UNC-CFAR), her work spans local, national, and global platforms, where she serves as a speaker, mentor, and activist dedicated to social justice and health equity.

Alicia's extensive leadership includes memberships with the **Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA)**, the **REPRIEVE Community Advisory Board**, and the **Positive Women's Network-USA**, where she serves as **North Carolina State Lead** and a **Policy Fellow**. She also served as **Co-Chair of the HIV Prevention Community Advisory Council** and was the **2023 Chair of the National Community Advisory Board** for the MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort Study. Her powerful autobiography, *Standing on My Healing: From Tainted to Chosen*, chronicles her journey and resilience.