

BIO: Donyale R. Griffin Padgett, Ph.D.

Donyale R. Padgett is an educator and communications professional with 20 years of progressive industry experience and over 20 years of teaching experience at the college level. She currently serves as Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence at Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit. In this role, Dr. Padgett oversees the Office of Inclusive Excellence. She leads a 40-plus member Council on Inclusive Excellence and works across the university's 13 schools and colleges and numerous divisions to lead initiatives that support WSU's diverse faculty and staff.

In addition to her role in senior administration, Dr. Padgett is a tenured associate professor at Wayne State in the Department of Communication. Much of her research focuses on the intersection of communication and culture. She has amassed a body of research that examines the effects of crises on vulnerable communities, discrimination as a form of crisis, and most recently, compassionate response to social crises. Dr. Padgett describes herself as a "Scholar/Practitioner". She has published numerous articles in academic journals and presents her work at regional and national conferences. She is also a very active practitioner, a sought-after speaker, and works with numerous organizations through her consultancy to help them create more inclusive spaces and improve communication with diverse stakeholders. Professor Padgett holds a doctorate degree from Howard University in rhetoric and intercultural communication. She also holds a master's degree in organizational communication/public relations and a bachelor's degree in journalism – both from Wayne State University. She holds numerous certificates, including intergroup dialogue, restorative practices, and strategic communication.