

## Darlene King Turner-NDCCDP, CEO and President of The Unity Collaborative



Darlene King Turner is the CEO and President of The Unity Collaborative (TUC), where she brings over two decades of strategic leadership experience in fostering inclusive communities, developing strategic collaborations, and championing cultural transformation to create meaningful impact. Under her leadership, TUC designs and implements targeted strategic initiatives that address the challenges faced by business, youth and families and communities, building cross-sector partnerships to dismantle systemic barriers.

Recognized for her visionary leadership and ability to manage complex initiatives, Darlene has consistently advanced equitable outcomes across industries and borders. Her deep expertise in organizational strategy and inclusive leadership positions her as a trusted authority in crafting innovative solutions that influence policy, reshape practices, and drive regional, national, and global impact.

Darlene spent the last 10 years as Executive Director of the Michigan Diversity Council, representing her client, The National Diversity Council. As the executive director, her charge was working with corporations and organizations in developing diversity and inclusion initiatives, programs, processes, and procedures. She also developed the growth of the council in the areas of business development, consulting and training and development throughout the entire state of Michigan as well as nationally.

Prior to her tenure with the MIDC, she held the role of director of events, consultant services, training and development for all 34 school districts under the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency for 9 years. Her territory covered implementation and execution of all workshops and conferences as well as maintaining CEU's for teachers and administrators within Wayne County MI. She managed more than 60 consultants as well as county-wide, signature events such as the Teacher Job Fair, County K-12 Art Fair and the Cultural Collaborative for Learning. Darlene was also an inaugural member of the Diversity Strategic Planning Committee, which rolled out a county-wide diversity plan for all districts.

Darlene's background is widespread. She spent six years as a national concert promoter, traveling around the world with some of today's most popular artists in the industry. She has produced and promoted shows at every concert venue in Detroit and beyond.

In 2008, she launched her consulting company, Life's Journey Training and Consulting. Life's Journey provides services in industries ranging from government, municipalities, education to automotive, medical, nonprofits and corporate entities across the country. Their area of expertise consists of diversity and inclusion, leadership development, marketing, and public relations. Life's Journey has provided service deliverables to various organizations and municipalities, which include the

cities of Sterling Heights, Farmington Hills and Kalamazoo, the Michigan Municipal League, Mckenna, the Third Judicial Circuit Court, ITC Holdings, DTE, AAA, Wayne County Head Start Programs, Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency, The Order of the Fisherman, The Detroit Medical Center, Revival Home Health Care, RTM Music Group, Real Times Media, Stonecrest Behavioral Health, Detroit Area Agency on Aging, Universal Studios, Detroit Community Schools, MASCO Corporation, Diversity Lansing and many more.

Darlene is a native of Michigan and enjoys spending time with her family, nephews and niece. She says her faith in God, family, passion for people and her love of traveling and gardening are the drivers which keep her on a Life's Journey. Darlene has a passion for people and earned a bachelor's degree in public relations and marketing from Wayne State University in Detroit. She has been operating in this capacity as well as in education and organizational development for 25 years. Darlene earned her National Certification as a Certified Diversity and Inclusion Professional in 2018.