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Meet Dr. Sibonginkosi (Bongi) Wenyika



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION

PRESENTS A FIVE-PART INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

CREATED BY
DR. BONGI WENYIKA, PHD. MHR

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COURSE OPENS MARCH 29, 2021



Dr. Bongyi Wenyika received her journalism degree Mass Media Communication (Print Journalism) from the Harare Polytechnic College in Zimbabwe. She has worked with such media organizations as Reuters News Agency as well as with non-profit organizations. As a journalist, she developed an interest in women's issues, reproductive justice, self-development, and HIV/AIDS. As a reporter, Dr. Wenyika's focus and assignments were predominantly on these subjects and to inform and educate women on how to protect themselves and their families from HIV/AIDS. Through this work, she developed an interest in and belief that nonprofits are vital to communities and they provide needed

resources for individuals that might otherwise go without. She later transitioned from journalism to the corporate public relations field.

In 2000, she and her family moved to the United States of America, where she furthered her education at Oklahoma Wesleyan University earning a bachelor's degree in business management. She then earned a Master of Human Relations degree. In partial fulfillment of this degree she conducted a research study exploring the experiences of long-term and short-term volunteer in a faith-based non-profit organization. She was awarded the Charles Schusterman Award for Academic Excellence. In 2012, Dr. Wenyika completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree from The University of Oklahoma and her dissertation was entitled A Multi-Case Exploration of Non-Profit Board

Member Diversity Attitudes and Perceptions.



In 2010, she graduated from Class 1 of the New Voices Board Internship Program. This program is a partnership between Leadership Tulsa and the Tulsa Area United Way and seeks to recruit, train, and mobilize a network of talented new board members from under-represented Tulsa, Oklahoma communities to serve in board leadership roles. During this program, Dr. Wenyika became interested in how organizations, including non-profits, embrace diversity and encourage active participation from traditionally under-

represented racial and ethnic groups. She has worked for the OU Tulsa Center of Applied Research for Non-Profit Organizations as well as an intern at the Oklahoma Center for Nonprofits, a statewide organization that supports non-profits.

She has served as a Court Appointed Advocate in Juvenile Court, Oklahoma County. In 2017, Governor Mary Fallin appointed her to serve a four-year term as a board member to the Oklahoma State Council on Aging.

Dr. Wenyika resides in Ottawa, Kansas with her husband Reggie, their two children, Thembi and Kudzai and dog, Brian.



She serves on the boards of Ottawa Community Arts Council and in 2020 was elected as Vice-President of the board at COF Training Services (services to people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities) in Coffey County, Osage County and Franklin County, Kansas. In 2019 she released her first book, *My Name is Not Sibongile, One Woman's Fight for Identity*, published by Urban Press.

Dr. Wenyika is passionate about social justice issues including diversity, inclusion, equity, criminal justice reform, education and advocates for individuals with disabilities and the aging. Due to this passion, Dr. Wenyika started a DEI consulting business, BW Diversity in 2019.



Currently, Dr. Wenyika is an adjunct professor at Ottawa University and teaches classes on race, diversity, equity and

inclusion while leading diversity initiatives in the President's Office. She also leads professional growth development seminars for students. She volunteers for different initiatives with the Black Student Union and works as an Ambassador in the community for the university. She is involved with Ottawa organizations serving the community's diverse needs including working with those who have disabilities, and organizations that provide services for K-12 students.