



Ena Williams MBA, MSM, BSN, RN, CENP
Chief Nursing Officer
Yale New Haven Hospital

Ena currently serves as Chief Nursing Officer at Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH), a 1541 bed ANCC magnet ® designated, level I trauma, Academic medical center. She has oversight of nearly 6000 nurses and clinical staff, with responsibility for practice, quality, workforce, nursing resources, patient experience and general operations.

Ena began her career in Jamaica after graduating from the University Hospital of the West Indies. She migrated to the United States and in 1991 was employed as a staff nurse at Bronx Lebanon Hospital in New York. In 1992 she joined the staff at Yale New Haven in 1992 as a staff nurse in the operating room and quickly progressed through a number of leadership positions: Laser Coordinator (1993), Perioperative Educator (1995), Patient Services Manager (2001) Nursing Director (2004). She was then promoted in 2012 to the position of VP and Associate Chief Nursing Office for Patient Services and in April 2017, the role of interim *Chief Nursing Officer* for the hospital. She has been part of the senior nursing leadership team that lead the hospital to two successful ANCC magnet® designations.

Ena assumed the role of chief nursing officer in 2018 and has since led the team through an ANCC accreditation of the Vizient Nurse Residency Program in 2018, which was recognized with 12 best practices. As CNO she also led the team through the COVID-19 pandemic, leading clinical and operational teams across the health system, and caring for nearly 7000 COVID patients. Most recently she led the team through their 3rd Magnet Designation.

Ena is constantly giving back to her community through numerous activities such as a past, parent advisor to the ELM City youth club of the National Association of Negro Business and Women's' Club, a former guest lecturer and mentor to Yale School of Nursing Howard Scholars Program, and a past member of the state of CT Women to Women Advisory Council. Ena served as president of the Southern Chapter of the National Black Nurses Association (Sept 2008-2010) during which time the chapter collaborated with several nursing organizations in the state to launch the *Connecticut Nursing Collaborative* now a member of the National Regional Action Coalition to advance the Future of Nursing Institute of Medicine (IOM) initiatives. She currently serves as a member of the board of the Connecticut Hospital Association, the Gateway Community College Foundation and the Whitney Center, the nominating committee for the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL), and the Committee on Clinical Leadership of the American Hospital Association. She also serves as a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory committee at the University Of Connecticut School Of Nursing. She is an active member of her church community serving in several capacities.

She has received numerous awards: The Hometown Hero Award from the Gateway Community College in New Haven (2020), the Legendary Woman award (2019), Trailblazer award from the National Black Nurses Association (2017), the Cornell Scott Health Leadership Award from the NAACP of greater New Haven (2015), Trailblazer Award from the Black Heritage Ball (2015). In 2012 Ena was recognized by the West Indian Social Club of Hartford as an outstanding Jamaican in the field of Healthcare (2010) and in 2012 outstanding Jamaican in America in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Independence. She also received the Mary E Mahoney Award from the Southern Connecticut Black Nurses Association (2004), and National Award for Woman of Color in Health Sciences and Technology (2003),

Ena graduated from the University Hospital of the West Indies with a Diploma in Nursing, Western Governors University (BSN) and Albertus Magnus College (MSM/MBA). She is currently a PhD candidate in Management and Leadership. Ena is a graduate of the GE Health Management Nurse Executive Fellowship and is Board certified in Executive Nursing Practice from the Association of Nurse Executives. She has published several journal and book chapters: Pellico, L. (2010). *Focus on Adult Health Medical Surgical Nursing; Perioperative Nursing* (Chap. 5). Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins. She is a frequent speaker at local/national nursing conferences.

Ena has been married to her husband Leonard for more than 36 years and has three adult children, Andrea, Andrew and Alex. Ena tries to live by the simple motto: *If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain.*