

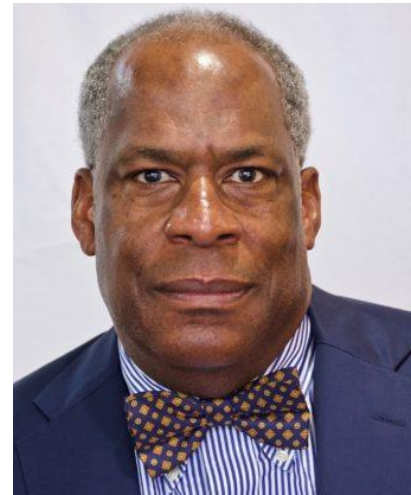


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Inaugural Dudley N. Williams Jr. Leadership Award to be Presented to Dr. James P. Comer *Author Jamila Dugan to Keynote Awards Ceremony on May 26*

Hartford, CT – April 19, 2022 ...Partners for Educational Leadership has established a Leadership Award in memory of Dudley N. Williams, Jr. who was Chairman of the Board of Partners until his death last year. The inaugural award will be presented at a reception in New Haven on May 26 to Dr. James P. Comer, founder and chairman of the School Development Program at the Yale School of Medicine’s Child Study Center.

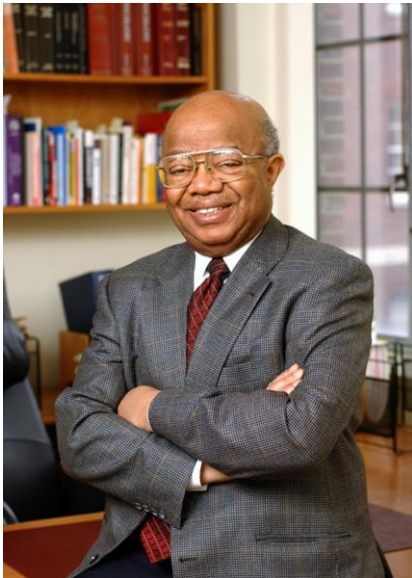


Dudley N. Williams, Jr.

Mr. Williams was a leader and strategist in business, education, and philanthropy. He was heralded as “a shining star of public service” by Senator Blumenthal and was named the ‘2017 Stamford Citizen of the Year.’

“Dudley Williams embodied public service,” said Mendi Blue-Paca, Chair of the Board of Partners for Educational Leadership.

“He was a visionary leader and tireless advocate for making our education system work for everyone, regardless of race or resources. By establishing this award in his memory, we hope to create a ‘Pulitzer Prize for Public Service’ in Connecticut.”



Dr. James P. Comer

Williams served in numerous leadership and volunteer roles for a broad range of community and statewide organizations, including the Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling and Education, Children’s Learning Centers of Fairfield County, Stamford Achieves, Urban League of Southwestern Connecticut, Connecticut Science Center and the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. He was on the boards of The Avon Theatre, Ferguson Library, Stamford YMCA, and the Connecticut Mirror.

Prior to his death, Mr. Williams was President and CEO of the Mill River Park Collaborative in Stamford. His corporate career included serving as Senior Vice President of Citizenship and Diversity at GE Asset Management.

The first recipient of the Dudley N Williams Jr. Award is Dr. Comer, who developed the Comer Process, a system of education that focuses on child



development in inner-city schools. This process has been utilized in more than 600 schools across 26 states.

Author, researcher and leadership coach Jamila Dugan, Ph.D., will provide the keynote address at the Ceremony. Dr. Dugan is co-author of “Street Data: A Next-Generation Model for Equity, Pedagogy, and School Transformation.” She began her career as a teacher in Washington, DC before earning her doctorate in Education Leadership for Equity from the University of California, Berkeley.

Partners for Educational Leadership is a non-profit organization that engages with superintendents, principals and thought leaders across the country to reimagine teaching and learning, dismantle instructional inequities and support systemic improvements so that all students can flourish. Partners supports comprehensive educational reform through a system-wide, integrated approach focused on improving instructional practice and developing leadership at all levels.



Dr. Jamila Dugan