



Dr. Lisa Williams Biography



Dr. Lisa Williams is internationally recognized as an academic trailblazer, founder of a multi-million dollar company, and an award winning speaker and author. Through hard work and perseverance Dr. Lisa attained unprecedented success by becoming the first female professor to receive a multi-million dollar endowed chair, the first African American professor to earn tenure at Penn State University, and the first African American to receive a doctorate in Logistics from The Ohio State University. At the height of her career, Dr. Lisa did the unthinkable when she left the academic life to blaze a new trail as an entrepreneur. In 2003, she founded the World of Entertainment, Publishing and Inspiration (World of EPI), LLC. EPI is the classic Cinderella story. Dr. Lisa grew the company from negative revenues into a multi-million dollar powerhouse. EPI is now a leading multi-cultural toy manufacturing and design firm with a global supply chain that crisscrosses the world from the US to China and other worldwide destinations. EPI's largest customer, Walmart awarded Dr. Lisa the Supplier of the Year Award for her visionary leadership. Working in partnership with Walmart, EPI touches the lives of an entire generation of children through its Positively Perfect Doll Line. Recently, Dr. Lisa was named an Ernst & Young Entrepreneurial Winning Women class of 2013.

While featured in many magazines for her expertise in business, she is also known for her ability to motivate executives, future leaders and audiences of all sizes. In addition to winning numerous teaching awards from major universities such as, Penn State, Ohio State and the University of Arkansas, she has been awarded the Outstanding Female Faculty Member of the Year from Penn State University, designated as an Amazing Woman by University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) and given the Trailblazer Award by the American Marketing Association PhD. Project.

Dr. Lisa was given the highest honor bestowed upon a faculty member – an endowed chair. Upon receiving the award she said, "This is like receiving the Academy Award for Faculty." Actually, Dr. Lisa has been given this honor – not once but twice – in three years. Major corporations and President Clinton's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection have sought her advice. Her peers and students alike recognize her as a leader in the field of business and supply chain management. Dr. Lisa has been ranked by the most prestigious journal in the field for the number of articles published. Her research has been published in the Journal of Marketing Channels, Journal of Business Logistics, the Transportation Journal, The International Journal of Physical Distribution and Logistics Management and the International Journal of Logistics Management. Her column Profiles in Leadership has been published in the Supply Chain Management Review Magazine.