



Biographical Summary

Ronald C. Williams, PhD

2024 USM Regents Faculty Award Recipient for *Excellence in Public Service*.

Dr. Ronald (Ron) C. Williams has served in higher education since 1985, and a faculty member in the Coppin State University (CSU) College of Business since 1996, serving as interim dean from 2013 until 2017. He became the founding director of the Center for Strategic Entrepreneurship in 2020.

An expert in organizations and human aspects of technology, Ron has demonstrated capabilities as an organizational transformation practitioner emphasizing relational competence, innovation-centric organizational community, and the affective learning paradigms to advance psychological safety, emotional well-being, and productivity in the workplace.

In 2016, Dr. Williams established a formal relationship, the first its kind in the nation, between CSU and Open Works Baltimore, a 34K sq. ft makerspace. This groundbreaking relationship led to a role as principal investigator in the 2019 [*Turning Makerspaces into Greater Places: An Organizational Assessment and Economic Impact Study of Open Works*](#), another significant innovation as the first comprehensive organizational assessment and economic impact study of a makerspace. He further contributed to the understanding of makerspace value in 2020 as principal investigator in the case study of Open Works' application of Lean manufacturing principles during the initial months of the Covid-19 global pandemic, producing over 28,000 face shields in 56 days for over 100 clients. These studies were used to help justify the first investment of public funds in the nation for the expansion of makerspaces as economic drivers by the State of Maryland, the MD Makerspace Pilot Initiative (MD Senate Bill 453). His most recent report entitled *Making the Future: A New Assessment Framework for Local Production* was released April 25, 2024.

Immediately prior to the 2015 unrest in Baltimore, Dr. Williams coined the phrase "ingepreneurship" (inge... as in ingenuity) as a framework for improving the socio-economic well-being of underrepresented communities. His focus on academic access and economic mobility are also evident in his work in manufacturing workforce development with The Century Foundation and the Urban Manufacturing Alliance ([see Industry & Inclusion: A Blueprint for Action](#)), development of the Coppin's Certificate in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and development of a trust-climate assessment instrument and relational framework for collaborative economic development across cultural and geographic divides.

Dr. Williams holds a Ph.D. in management and organization from George Washington University with concentrations in organization behavior & development and the management of science, technology, & innovation; a master's degree in human resource development from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland; and a bachelor's degree with majors in psychology, social science, and education from the University of Tampa in Tampa, Florida. He also serves on the AAAS HBCU Making & Innovation Advisory Board, the Open Works Board of Directors, as President and Chair of the Urban Manufacturing Alliance, and on other industry-related advisory boards.