

Biographical Summary

Ronald C. Williams, PhD



Dr. Ronald (Ron) C. Williams has served in higher education for 35 years, spending the past 25 years as a faculty member in the Coppin State University (CSU) College of Business and serving as interim dean from 2013 until 2017.

In 2016, Dr. Williams established a formal relationship between CSU and Open Works Baltimore, a 34K sq. ft makerspace. This groundbreaking relationship is the first of its kind in the nation and 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” (www.GreaterSpacesAndPlaces.com), 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.

Immediately prior to the 2015 unrest in Baltimore, Dr. Williams coined the phrase “ingepreneurship” (inge... as in ingenuity) in a 2017 *Metropolitan Journal* article entitled “Creating a University Driven ‘Ingepreneurial’ Ecosystem in West Baltimore: A Strategy for Rust Belt Revitalization.” The concept describes a framework for improving the socio-economic well-being of underrepresented communities and aligns with his work as academic advisor on joint research studies on manufacturing workforce development with The Century Foundation and Urban Manufacturing Alliance, development of the Coppin’s Certificate in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and development of a trust-climate assessment instrument and “relational innovation” framework for collaborative economic development across cultural and geographic divides. He is also the faculty advisor of award-winning student teams in local and national innovation competitions and the founding director of the Coppin State University Center for Strategic Entrepreneurship.

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, and is President and Chair of the Urban Manufacturing Alliance.