

Biographical Summary

Ronald C. Williams, PhD
Associate Professor of Management
Founding Director of the Center for Strategic Entrepreneurship

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

With 38 years devoted to higher education, Dr. Ronald (Ron) C. Williams spent the last 28 years as a faculty member in the College of Business at Coppin State University (CSU), including a stint as interim dean from 2013 to 2017. Dr. Williams has built a career focused on community-centric academic innovation, notably establishing the first formal relationship between a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and a state-of-the-art, community-embedded makerspace in the nation.

In 2017, he introduced "ingepreneurship," combining ingenuity and entrepreneurship, as a framework to enhance economic mobility in underserved communities. Serving as an academic advisor, he played a crucial role in various research studies on manufacturing workforce development. Dr. Williams is also responsible for establishing CSU's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Certificate Program, founding the CSU Center for Strategic Entrepreneurship, and advising award-winning student teams in local and national innovation competitions.

An advocate for transdisciplinary research teams, Dr. Williams has served as the principal investigator on multiple projects and is a frequent speaker on developing teams consisting of researchers from diverse disciplines. His academic journey includes a Ph.D. in management and organization from George Washington University, specializing in organizational behavior and development, and the management of science, technology, and innovation. He holds a master's degree in human resource development from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree with majors in psychology, social science, and education from the University of Tampa.

Beyond academia, Dr. Williams actively serves on the AAAS HBCU Making & Innovation Advisory Board, the Open Works (Baltimore) Board of Directors, and as president and chair of the Urban Manufacturing Alliance.