

Towanna Burrous, Ed.D., PCC



Every day over the past few years, more and more individuals and organizations have chosen to embrace the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The groundwork has been laid for them quietly and consistently over the past several *decades* by dedicated people who don't see this embrace as a choice, but rather embody it as a personal mission. Dr. Towanna Burrous is among the most impactful of them, and she will join the Capital Coaches Conference as the mid-day Keynote Speaker to impart her experience, wisdom, and foresight around the intersection of diversity and coaching.

For nearly forty years, Dr. Burrous – a Professional Certified Coach and President of the ICF-accredited Coach Diversity Institute – has essentially done (at least!) two jobs at once. Her career on its own is astounding: Dr. Burrous has provided intelligence through science, math, and leadership contributions as an employee of the CIA, pioneered essential early knowledge about digital transmission systems (AKA cell phones and pagers) in the corporate world, become the first woman and youngest person to gain ordination at her church, homeschooled her daughter, and founded a nonprofit which empowers young women in Washington, D.C.

Simultaneously, and integrated within each of her official roles, she has blazed a trail for people of color. Towanna stood up the first Employee Resource Group for Black federal agents which became a model for all agencies, recruited BIPOC and LGBTQ professionals for leadership roles, and performed countless actions aimed at dismantling systems that support marginalization and injustices.

Towanna made it her mission to become the leader that she needed when she was younger. Through the creation of the Coach Diversity Institute, she has integrated her professional aptitudes and personal passions, and built a platform upon which her mission will continue to flourish and grow exponentially.

CoachDiversity Institute is a highly-dynamic organization; it was created out of needs identified by Towanna in her own coaching practice, and has evolved as she and her colleagues have observed shifts in the workplace and American society at large. The more she coached BIPOC clients, the more Dr. Burrous desired to create a community of coaches of color, and to educate all coaches on how to get better at meeting the needs of diverse clients.

CDI fills a previous gap in providing accredited coach diversity training, and has graduated more than 1,000 students who now coach in a more informed, fearless, and empowering way. At CoachDiversity Institute, students learn how to listen, respect culture, and honor parts of clients' identities which may be invisible or rarely seen. CDI team members conduct organizational diversity services, and provide 1:1 executive coaching as well – all through a future-facing lens.

Dr. Burrous will undoubtedly look to the future during her keynote address, providing insights she's gained over a lifetime in her energizing and positive style. You'll be invited to think differently about diversity, and challenged to integrate it into your coaching and life, just as Towanna has throughout hers.

Please join us in saluting Towanna for her immeasurable contributions to diversity and the coaching profession at the [Capital Coaches Conference](#) on September 23!