



**Darlene Oliver Hightower, J.D.**, has been named Associate Vice President for Community Engagement and Practice for Rush. Darlene is responsible for the implementation and evaluation of community programs aimed to improve health of individuals in our community areas. In addition, she will lead the partnership with interdisciplinary teams across RUMC and Rush Oak Park Hospital to address and mitigate health inequities; fulfill commitments to the local community; oversee the community-based school-based clinics; Rush University community outreach programs, and provide direction for the school-based pipeline programs. Darlene is a key member of the team that is helping to shape Rush's enduring commitment to community health and well-being in our neighborhoods.

Prior to joining Rush, Darlene held a dual role with Public Allies, Inc., as National Vice President of Programs and Executive Director for Public Allies Chicago. There, she was charged with overseeing the programmatic and administrative deliverables for an \$8 million federal AmeriCorps grant that funded Public Allies' signature national service apprenticeship program in 23 communities across the country.

Prior to joining Public Allies, Darlene was Associate Director for the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force, an affiliate of RUMC, where she worked to address health disparities in breast cancer outcomes for African American women in Chicago. While there, Darlene launched the Task Force's first e-newsletter, developed its first corporate sponsorship initiatives, launched community-based outreach programs and raised more than \$1 million in funding.

Darlene practiced law before transitioning to the nonprofit sector and was a partner in a law firm handling civil rights litigation. In 2008, she was appointed as an administrative law judge with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. The Chicago Community Trust selected Darlene as a 2012 Emerging Leadership Fellow and in 2015, she was selected as a fellow for the University of Chicago's inaugural Civic Leadership Academy.

Darlene has served as a board member or volunteer for the Art Institute of Chicago (Evening Associates Board), the Chicago Foundation for Women and Planned Parenthood of Illinois. Darlene holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology (with high honors) from Bradley University and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.