

Velma McBride Murry, Ph.D.

Dr. Velma McBride Murry holds the Lois Autrey Betts Endowed Chair and is a Vanderbilt University Board of Trustee's Appointed University Professor in Departments of Health Policy [*Vanderbilt School of Medicine*] and Human and Organizational Development [*Peabody College*] at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. She is Associate Director of the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, Community Engagement Research Core, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and is President of the Society for Research on Adolescence. Dr. McBride Murry serves on numerous boards and governing councils, including National Academy of Medicine, Foundation for Child Development, Society for Research on Child Development, and consultant to The Chang Zuckerberg Initiative. She received her PhD from The University of Missouri-Columbia, College of Human and Environmental Sciences. Dr. McBride Murry's research focuses on examining the significance of context to everyday life experiences of African American families and youth; specific consideration is given to the implications of racism and other social structural stressors that marginalize families and cascading influences on parenting/family functioning and youth development. She has translated research from longitudinal research studies to inform the design, development and implementation of two RCTs to test their efficacy in youth risk behavior engagement. The Strong African American Families (SAAF) and Pathways for African Americans Success (PAAS) programs, not only prevented and averted sexual risk behaviors and substance/drug use but also demonstrated spillover effects on the enhancement of several educational-related outcomes and reduction in behaviors that place youth at risk for violence engagement, from middle childhood through high school. She is a member of several professional societies, including the *Society for Prevention Research*, *Society for Research on Adolescence*, and *Society for Research on Child Development*. Dr. McBride Murry has authored multiple publications in the fields of adolescent development and risk vulnerability and avoidance, parenting, consequences of systemic racism on African American families and communities, and contributions of family-strength-based preventive interventions in the promotion of positive health and well-being for youth and parents.