

BRIDGET R. MCCURTIS, PH.D.

Bridget R. McCurtis has had a diverse career focusing on the personal and professional development of a variety of populations and has made a significant impact on a both a national and international scope.

McCurtis is currently the Assistant Vice-Provost, Diversity Initiatives and the Senior Director of the Higher Education Opportunity Program at New York University (NYU). In these two roles she has been charged with developing university, state and national strategic partnerships that will assist her in assessing and increasing diversity for students, faculty and administrators at a global private research university. As the Senior Director of New York State's largest Higher Education Opportunity Program, McCurtis is directly responsible for managing a 26 million dollar budget, leading a full and part-time staff of approximately 40, and administering academic support services to almost 600 students. Since taking on the role, she has successfully led the development and implementation of strategic priorities to better serve students, increase retention and graduation rates and provide developmental opportunities for staff. Understanding that the core of a university's mission is to create knowledge and stimulate intellect, McCurtis remains engaged in scholarly activities with a faculty appointment through the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. Further, she continues to research and publish on developing leaders, social change, racial esteem and identity development.

While serving as Vice President and Chief Program Officer for the Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF), McCurtis provided the overall strategic direction and operational management of the core function of the organization- scholarship, leadership development and mentoring. As only the second person to have held the position in the organization's 30+ year history, McCurtis helped to build a solid foundation and expand program services. Her role included overseeing a \$3 million dollar scholarship budget; managing 90 corporate, education and volunteer relationships; coordinating large scale education conferences; and directing mentoring efforts with 500 selection committee members and alumni across the United States. Under her direction, JRF implemented the first graduate fellowship and the Rachel Robinson International summer abroad experience.

McCurtis has spent a significant portion of her career providing career guidance to various constituents. Most recently as an independent career coach and formally as a Career Preparation Coach with Management Leadership for Tomorrow, A national career development organization featured in *Black in America 2: Tomorrow's Leaders*. McCurtis received much of her early career training at INROADS, an international career development organization, where she managed the intern relationship process for the largest operation located in New York City. Throughout her tenure she was increasingly responsible for local and national initiatives such as: coaching & advising over 400 college students; developing and implementing national career development standards for more than 5,000 interns; providing strategic solutions to corporate clients; and planning and executing a

comprehensive recruitment and training curriculum. McCurtis has also utilized her professional experience and academic preparation as an instructor at the University of Wisconsin- Madison teaching classes on the first-year experience and career strategies.

Prior to joining INROADS, McCurtis worked in the Undergraduate Admissions Office at New York University and the Graduate Admissions Office at Teachers College, Columbia University. She has also served as an Educational Specialist for the Children's Aid Society, Frederick Douglass Community Center and an Instructor and program developer for Ujimaa Princesses, an after school self-esteem and cultural enrichment program at the Ralph Bunche School in Harlem, NY.

McCurtis has presented over 100 personal and professional development workshops over the years and has been trained to conduct a variety of personality and career development assessments such as Career Leader, MBTI, Oz Principle Accountability training, Strengthsfinder, Strong Interest Inventory and True Colors. Capitalizing on her vast professional and personal experiences, McCurtis has been published in a book titled *Rethinking Leadership in a Complex, Multicultural, and Global Environment* and was awarded an Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award for her examination of student involvement and socially responsible leadership.

An avid volunteer, McCurtis has been recognized by the New York Times with a *Teachers Who Make a Difference* award for service to young people, as a *TRIO Achiever* by the Council for Opportunity in Education for civic and professional achievements and has received the *Dr. Brenda Pfaehler Award of Excellence* from the University of Wisconsin-Madison CeO program. As an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she truly lives the mission "to be of service to all mankind" and participates in a variety of volunteer efforts including: serving as a Charter Board Member for Sankofa House Educational Center and Spiritual Retreat located in Harlem, NY and Ghana, West Africa; a Program and Admissions Committee Member in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; a grant reviewer and education outreach committee member with Komen for the Cure- Madison; and a Board Member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Dane County. Most dear to her are the two mentees she maintains a relationship with from her time as a mentor with Blue Nile Rites of Passage, a cultural and moral character development program.

Finally, McCurtis holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Marquette University, a Master's degree in Student Personnel Administration from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Wisconsin- Madison.