

Cheryl D. Watkins, PhD

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Bio



Dr. Cheryl D. Watkins is an educator by profession who tells you that she fell in love with teaching as a child. On rainy days, you could find her playing school on the back porch of her apartment building with her sisters and friends. She remembers how her teachers indulged her love of books at an early age. She has an earned doctorate from the University of Illinois at Chicago and is currently studying chaplaincy and ministry care at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Dr. Watkins retired after 33 years with the Chicago Public Schools. Throughout her career, she was recognized for excellence in education at the local, regional and national levels. To name a few, she received the Golden Apple Award (for excellence in teaching), the prestigious Milken Award and was honored to receive the Margaret

T. Burroughs Legacy Award from the DuSable Museum of African History.

She travels throughout the Midwest speaking on a variety of topics including leadership, emotional intelligence and race and equity. Dr. Watkins is the author of *Releasing Her: Wrestling Peace from the Jaws of Alzheimer's*, is an adjunct professor at two universities in the Chicago area, serves in her church, and is an active member of her sorority.