

Dr. Lana Evelyn Williams was born and raised in the southernmost part of Orangeburg County, SC in the small town of Eutawville. She matriculated through the elementary and junior high schools of Orangeburg County School District Three and is a 1989 graduate of Holly-Hill Roberts High School. In 1993, she graduated with her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and her teaching credentials from South Carolina State University. Because she is a life-long learner, she later went on to pursue a Masters Degree in Educational Administration from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC and received her Doctorate Degree from South Carolina State University in 2007. Her passion for teaching and learning was immediately obvious and it soon became evident that a career in education was not merely a “job” but her calling.

Dr. Williams has served in various positions in the educational arena during her 28-year career, beginning as a teacher at William J. Clark Middle School in the former Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five. After six years as a classroom teacher, she accepted a position as Curriculum Coordinator/Administrative Assistant at North Middle-High School in North, South Carolina where she would later become the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction. While at North, Dr. Williams assisted the school in improving their report card rating from unsatisfactory to excellent in one school year as measured by the SC Department of Education. The school continuously garnered the award for having one of the highest SAT scores in the state and was also rated excellent-excellent on the school’s report card for five-consecutive years.

After serving at North Middle-High for six-years, Dr. Williams returned to William J. Clark Middle as the Principal where she spent 10 wonderful years. While at William J. Clark, Dr. Williams was able to restore the pride and legacy of being a Greyhound. The school received many awards and honors during her tenure. From 2012-2015, the school received the Palmetto Silver Award for closing the achievement gap between disaggregated groups and raising the academic achievement of all students. The school moved from a rating of below average to good on the school report card. Under her leadership, William J. Clark was also named a SC Red Carpet School, a National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades School to Watch, and an inaugural member of the SC Transform SC initiative with the creation of the S.C.O.P.E. Academy, a school-within a school that served middle school students.

After leading William J. Clark for ten years, Dr. Williams was promoted to the position of Executive Director of Secondary Schools in Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five, and later moved to Orangeburg Consolidated School District Four where she served in the roles of Chief Academic Officer and Superintendent. When the three former Orangeburg County school districts consolidated in 2019, Dr. Williams was named the district’s Chief Instructional Officer.

Presently, Dr. Williams serves as the Director of the Star Center for Learning, an alternative learning environment for middle school students. Dr. Williams has devoted her entire career to the faculty, staff, and students that she has been blessed to serve, and her primary goal is to do whatever she can to assist students in accomplishing any goal that their minds can conceive and to make teaching and learning a daily priority.

Dr. Williams has been married to Thomas D. Williams for twenty-five years, and they are the proud parents of Ella Ja’Carol and Thomas, II.