

African Women of Excellence



Honorable Vivian Lowery Derryck

The Honorable Vivian Lowery Derryck is the president and C.E.O. of The Bridges Institute (Bridges), a nonprofit she launched in 2009 to help strengthen African governance and leadership when she was an Inaugural Fellow at Harvard's Advanced Leadership Initiative.

Current Bridges projects focus on the Sahel, Mali, democracy-strengthening, religious tolerance and women's empowerment. Earlier in her career she taught at New York City Technical College and the University of Liberia.

Working in and out of government in more than 35 countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, Vivian also served as the Assistant Administrator for Africa at USAID, president of the African-American Institute, executive vice president of the National Council of Negro Women, VP at the National Democratic Institute and an SVP of a large non-profit, AED. She is dedicated to African sustainable development, strengthening civil society, increased citizens' political participation, democracy-building and women's leadership.

A graduate of Chatham College (BA), with a Masters in International Affairs from Columbia University and a certificate in Advanced Leadership Studies from Harvard University, Derryck is listed in *Who's Who*, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Bretton Woods Committee and a Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science.

She serves on several nonprofit boards including the \$650 million health and education non-profit FHI 360; the Jane Goodall Institute; Femmes/Afrique/Solidarité in which she chairs the Advisory Committee and the Sirleaf Market Women's Fund. A 2011 Purpose Prize Fellow, her other awards include the Guggenheim Humanitarian Award, NCNW Martin Luther King Service Award, UNICEF Achievement Award and an honorary doctorate.