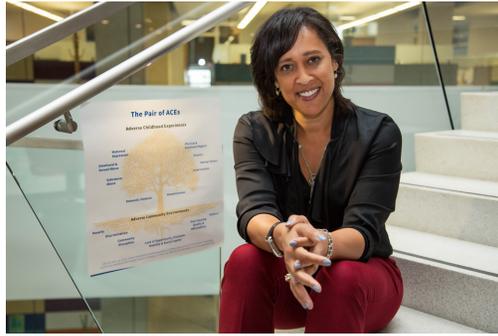




Building Community Resilience

Milken Institute School
of Public Health
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Sumner M. Redstone
Global Center for
Prevention & Wellness



Wendy Ellis, DrPH, MPH

Wendy Ellis is an Assistant Professor in Global Health and the Founding Director of the Center for Community Resilience at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University. Dr. Ellis has spent the last fifteen years developing and working to grow a 'resilience movement' to address systemic inequities that contribute to social and health disparities that are often transmitted in families and communities from generation to generation.

The [Building Community Resilience \(BCR\) collaborative](#) and [Resilience Catalysts](#) networks are implementing Dr. Ellis' BCR process and the Community Resilience framework she developed during her doctoral studies at The George Washington University. Ellis' innovations provide a platform for cross-sector partners to align resources, programs and initiatives with community-based efforts to address adverse childhood experiences and adverse community environments-- or as Ellis has coined it "[The Pair of ACEs](#)". The strengths-based approach is aimed at building the infrastructure to disrupt cycles of structural racism, foster equity and promote resilience in communities by improving access to supports and buffers that help individuals 'bounce back' and communities thrive. The BCR process and Community Resilience framework are being used in more than 20 cities and states across the country. [Dr. Ellis' Community Resilience framework is featured in a special issue of the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice focused on addressing structural racism as a public health initiative.](#)

Leveraging her extensive background in communications, in 2022 Dr. Ellis produced a documentary, "[America's Truth: Cincinnati](#)" that follows her team's innovative approach to centering conversations on structural racism that galvanized a resilience movement to foster equity through systems and policy change. On the heels of that success, Dr. Ellis and her team have launched a Truth & Equity movement in Washington, DC. Dr. Ellis holds several leadership positions in public health including Chair of the National Academy of Science's, Enhancing Community Resilience in the Gulf States Committee, Scientific Advisor to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Prevention and Injury Center and the National Academy's Culture of Health Advisory Board. In 2018 Dr. Ellis was selected as an [Aspen Institute Ascend Fellow](#) to support her leadership in developing cross-sector strategies to address childhood trauma, foster equity and build community resilience.