



Claire Nelson, Ph.D.
Founder and Chief Ideation Leader
The Futures Forum

**Futurist ~ Sustainability Engineer ~ Social Entrepreneur ~
Storyteller**

WHITE HOUSE CHAMPION OF CHANGE

Dr. Claire A. Nelson is Lead Futurist of The Futures Forum, a research and education practice which uses the disciplines of strategic foresight and sustainability engineering for effective design and planning of projects and policies across a variety of sectors. Her public research interest lies in

promoting foresight as a tool for driving the promotion of the UN SDGs – Agenda 2030, through a “SMART Futures for All” lens. Nelson, who was listed as one of Top Women Futurists on Twitter, is a member of the Association for Professional Futurists, and serves on Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Futures Studies. Her speaking assignments include: US Air Force; ASME; American Association of Blacks in Energy; Blacks in Government; Hepatitis Foundation International; Jamaica Spectrum Authority; Salzburg Seminar; Women International Research Engineering Summit; and the International Symposium on Sustainable Systems and Technology.

Prior to starting The Futures Forum, Dr. Nelson enjoyed over thirty years career in international development at the Inter-American Development Bank, and was the trailblazer for placing the topic of social exclusion due to race and ethnicity on the agenda of the Washington international finance institutions. As a result of her pioneering leadership, she was honored with the prestigious Ortiz Mena Award at the Inter-American Development Bank in 2010.

A renaissance woman, she is distinguished as the first Jamaican woman to earn a Doctorate in an Engineering discipline, and was the only woman of African descent in her graduating class. Dr. Nelson holds a Bachelors and Masters in Industrial Engineering from the State University of New York at Buffalo and Purdue University, and a Doctorate in Engineering Management from the George Washington University, and is an inductee in several Engineering Honor Societies. She was named an Outstanding Alumni of Purdue University School of Industrial Engineering in 2013.

A winner of several awards and honors, Dr. Nelson has served on numerous Boards and Committees, including IIE Sustainability Division, Unity Caucus of the Constituency for Africa, and the AAAS Fellowship Review Committee. The sought-after speaker and award-winning writer and performance artiste, was named a WHITE HOUSE CHAMPION OF CHANGE in 2012.

Dr. Claire Nelson is also Founder and President of the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS) the leading Caribbean American advocacy group in Washington DC. The national profile partner for the US Census in 2010, Dr. Nelson is the architect of the successful Campaign to declare June as National Caribbean American Heritage Month; and the visionary behind such flagship events as the White House Caribbean American Community Briefings; the Annual Legislative Forum on Capitol Hill; Invest Caribbean Business Leaders Dialogue; N Business Roundtable; and the Caribbean American Heritage Awards.