

**Irma McClaurin** is a 30-year veteran activist-scholar, teacher and writer and experienced administrator with extensive knowledge and proven expertise in diverse areas that include education, higher education administration, community outreach and engagement, philanthropy and federal grants, and diversity and social justice. She holds both an MA ('89) and PhD ('93) in anthropology and also an MFA ('76) in English, all from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Her experiences growing up in inner-city Chicago and as a first-generation college graduate have influenced her professional growth and commitment. She is an alumna of the experimental Yale Summer High School ('68) described in the forthcoming documentary entitled "Walk Right In," and a graduate of Grinnell College in Iowa ('73) with a major in American Studies.

Often described as a "vision architect" with a talent for getting things done under impossible circumstances, McClaurin has served as a university president (Shaw U in Raleigh), an Associate VP and the founding Executive Director of the first Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center at the University of Minnesota, and a program officer in Education and Scholarship at the Ford Foundation.

After completing one year at USAID as an AAAS Diplomacy Fellow, she spent time at Fisk University as Deputy Provost and she was the Mott Distinguished Chair in Women's Studies at Bennett College for Women. She has held tenured positions in anthropology at the University of Florida and the University of Minnesota.

A committed writer and public intellectual, McClaurin publishes across a range of mediums (poetry, journalism, ethnography, creative non-fiction and children's literature) to make her work accessible to multiple audiences. She free-lances as the Culture and Education Editor for Insight News ([www.insightnews.com](http://www.insightnews.com)) of Minneapolis and has appeared on television and NPR over the years.

She recently drew upon her latest book project on Zora Neale Hurston and anthropology to publish the multimedia essay, "Zora Neale Hurston: Enigma, Heterodox and Progenitor of Black Studies: in the launch issue of Fire!!!: The Multimedia Journal of Black Studies (<http://www.fire-jbs.org/>).

Through McClaurin Solutions, she consults on organization development and change, crisis management, leadership coaching, community outreach and engagement and strategic communications. She is a frequent speaker who has appeared on television and National Public Radio.

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