

Berthilde Dufrene

DNP, MSNEd, BSN, AAS, CARN, RN



Ms. Dufrene was born in the beautiful Caribbean Island, Haiti but migrated to United States in the 1970s. She has held several positions in marketing and administrative support at International Business Machines, Inc (IBM). She opted for a career change in 1993 from Business Marketing to Nursing when her employer, IBM, relocated to Raleigh, NC.

Ms. Dufrene is the founder and past president of the Haitian American Nurses Association of Hudson Valley New York, Inc (HANA) and has been playing a key leadership role in new chapter initiatives and advancement of HANA. She is presently serving as the Chief Nursing Officer for the NYS OMH Corrections

Based Operations; she is the current President of the Zeta Omega Chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society; she is the founder and current president of the Haitian Cultural Heritage Preservation, Inc; she is a current member of the NYS OASAS Commissioner's nursing advisory panel; she is a current member of the board of HANA of Hudson Valley and HANA International; and she is a current advisory board member for Mercy College Nursing Program. She is also an Executive Board Member of the Sun River Health Care. She is a past member of the board of the Spring Valley chapter of the NAACP, a published author, a well decorated acclaimed leader and sought-after speaker on leadership, mental health, correctional nursing and addiction issues.

She received her Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, NJ, her Master of Science in Nursing Education (MSNEd) at Mercy College in Dobbsferry, NY, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at SUNY New Paltz her Associate of Science (A.S.) in Nursing at Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY and is a graduate of Berkeley College in White Plains, NY.

Berthilde showed a keen interest in community service at a very young age serving as a member of the "Rally des Jeunes" of St. Joseph Church for many years until she went away to college. She has served as both a leader and member of many community organizations, including the NAACP and the Tau Phi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc, NYSNA District 17 – PNARC, the Rockland County Nurses Recognition Committee, and the International Nurses Society on Addictions (IntNSA).

Ms. Dufrene is the author of "Addiction Nursing" Advance for Nurses Magazine, Vol. 9 • Issue 23 • Page 14 – October, 2008. Ms. Dufrene's Achievements have been recognized and honored by the International Nurses Honor society, Sigma Theta Tau, Advance for Nurses Magazine's "Best Nursing Team" for patient advocate, Nurses of Excellence by the International Association of HealthCare Professionals (IAHCP), New York Mets To Ten Nurse Heroes, and acknowledge among the nation's government employees in 2017 by NextGen with Public Service Award-

<https://www.nextgenovt.com/nextgen-general/2017-nextgen-public-service-award-finalist>. Her advocacy efforts include leading the fight for justice when a national medical staffing published an ad "No Haitians Need Apply". Her efforts went viral and received international attention. The company was fined by the New York Attorney General's Office and she collaborated with the NAAPC to win nursing scholarship awards for under privilege students. Her efforts won her Rockland County wide respect and appreciation. <http://www.rocklandtimes.com/2015/11/05/unsung-heroes-dedicated-to-nursing-and-speaking-out-against-discrimination/>