



**George R. Williams, Ph.D. candidate** provides leadership for the fatherhood and family strengthening initiatives for the state of Kansas as a special assistant in the Department for Children and Families. George has been actively involved over the past 13 years as the former executive director of the Urban Father Child Partnership in developing and delivering fathering education and programming in various settings throughout communities across the country. His presentations feature thoughtful insights and an engaging, passionate style. George also writes and performs powerful dramatizations, poetry and songs that illustrate the challenges of fathers.



George is a nationally recognized fathering and family expert that has spoken and taught at national conferences including the National PTA Conference, the National Welfare Reform Conference, National Fatherhood Summit, Annual Fathers Behind Bars Conference, the National Association of Basketball Coaches Conference, Family Support America and the Head Start Institute on Father Involvement Conference. He served on the expert panel of the Strengthening Families with Children Born Out-Of-Wedlock research project conducted by Princeton University and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He has testified as an expert fathering witness before a Senate Sub-committee and was invited to join the National Urban League's Commission of African American Males.

George is a contributing author to the book, *Why Fathers Count* and the textbook, *Fundamentals of Early Childhood Education 4th Edition*. He has authored three fathering curricula: *Quenching the Father Thirst*, *the Coach Dads Play Book*, and *R.E.A.D. (Reconnecting Education and Dads) to Kids*. He has appeared on national television as a spokesperson for urban fathering on CNN, FOX News, PBS, ION TV and TBN. He has appeared in print as a "Phenomenal Father" by *Ebony Magazine* and in *Black Enterprise* and *JET Magazine*.

George earned his Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS.) He earned his Master of Science degree from Friends University (Wichita, KS) in marriage and family therapy and is a lifetime member in Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. He is a graduate from the DeVos Urban Leadership Initiative's ministry training program, a past president of Urban Youth Leadership. He is a Ph.D. candidate in family studies at Kansas State University examining father involvement risk and shielding factors among non-resident African American fathers. He serves as the pastor of family life and youth at Cross Point Community Church of the Nazarene. George and Trudy, his wife of twenty-nine years, have three boys and a daughter and live in the greater Kansas City area.