



# 2026 Woman of Distinction

Nonprofit



**Dr. Sharon McDaniel**  
Founder, President, and CEO  
*A Second Chance, Inc.*

Dr. Sharon L. McDaniel is the founder, president, and CEO of A Second Chance, Inc., the nation's leading nonprofit voice on kinship care. With more than 40 years of award-winning leadership in child welfare, she has shaped policy, practice, and thought leadership across Pennsylvania and the United States.

Dr. McDaniel serves as a Trustee of Casey Family Programs and, in 2024, was appointed to the board of directors of the Eden Hall Foundation in Pittsburgh.

Her notable affiliations include service as a former trustee of the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, contributions to the Quality Improvement Center on Post-Permanency Services, the Federal Child and Family Services Review, the HHS National Advisory Kinship Panel, the National Center

on Grandfamilies Council, Pennsylvania's Quality Assurance Committee, and the Allegheny County Children's Cabinet.

A civic leader, she is the former president of Black Administrators in Child Welfare, founder and co-curator of the National Sankofa Institute for Senior and Emerging African American Child Welfare Leaders, and founder and current president of the African American Strategic Partnership.

Dr. McDaniel has authored influential articles, earned multiple national awards, and holds two doctoral degrees alongside executive education credentials from Harvard University and the University of Chicago. A sought-after lecturer, she has presented at the University of Barcelona, Oxford University, Howard University, and other distinguished institutions.