

## Vickie L. Ferdinand-Powell PharmD, MS, FASHP

---



### *Each One Teach One*

Vickie's lifelong love of learning and growing was stimulated by family members, educators, and friends who saw her leadership potential. Surrounding herself with good mentors, she moved rapidly into leadership positions while cultivating many enduring friendships with those who guided her and young people who were fortunate to receive her guidance. She encourages others to go beyond the path you envision for yourself and remember to invest in others who you see as a future leader.

Vickie is currently the Site Director of Operations at New York–Presbyterian Hospital. She received her BS in Pharmacy (1979) from Xavier University, her MPA (1993) from Long Island University, and her PharmD (2018) from Howard University.

***Vickie's advice is: Adopt the motto "Each One Teach One." If each one of us could teach one other person, leadership will be sustained. Mentors must understand and appreciate their privileged position to support current and future leaders.***



### *Dear Colleague,*

The great scientist Albert Einstein revolutionized the way we view time, space, and gravity. He became a paragon of scientific achievement despite an impoverished background. To all great scientists who preceded him, Einstein expressed gratitude for the many contributions that enabled him to do so much in his chosen field. Like Einstein, I grew up in a poor family with meager resources and very little support. My father died

when I was five years old, and my mother worked long hours as a domestic. After doing hard physical work each day, she had little time to spend enjoying life. My mother did not graduate from high school, and her family could not afford to send her to college. However, she always stressed her desire for me to get an education so that I would not have to work as hard (physically) as she did.

Her vision for me was to be the best at whatever I decided to do and to use my brain to make a positive impact in our community and the world. My mother also encouraged me to travel widely and seek experiences that were not available to her. She was my biggest cheerleader along with my grandmother who helped raise us and always encouraged me to be the best I could be. I am the first in my family to earn a college degree. My mother died one year after I graduated, so I was very lucky to have mentors who joined my extended family and inspired me to go further than I ever imagined.

I am truly a living testament to the power of mentoring. If it were not for my mentors' generosity of spirit, rigorous efforts, and the much-needed constructive critiques, I would not be where I am today. They provided leadership, education, counseling, friendship, and a professional roadmap for my success. They made learning fun, were always there to provide guidance, and after recognizing the tiniest spark in me, helped turn it into a flame. Sandra Day O'Connor, the retired Supreme Court Justice, once said, "We don't accomplish anything in this world alone, and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that create something." As leaders, we must be committed to mentoring and grooming others. The circle of life begins with learning, then continues with leading, teaching and finally, mentoring.

At an ASHP meeting, I had the honor of hearing a keynote lecture by Dr. Maya Angelou who shared the words of a 19th-century African American lyricist, Blind Andy Jenkins. "When it looked like the sun wouldn't shine anymore, God put a rainbow in the cloud." Dr. Angelou added, "Even on the darkest days, there was light." As I reflect on my growth in the field of pharmacy, I fondly remember my first mentor, Harvey Maldow. He was one of the rainbows in my cloud. Harvey and his wife, Renee, always provided caring advice and treated me like a daughter. He spent countless hours talking to me about the importance of making a contribution and getting involved in the New York State Council of Health-System Pharmacists (NYSCHP) and ASHP. As part of our benefits package, Harvey made sure funds were included for each pharmacist to join. During his presidency at the state level, he appointed me to committees with other seasoned pharmacy leaders in the Council and used his influence to advance me in the State Council.