

Dr. Leslie T. Fenwick, PhD, is Dean Emeritus of the Howard University School of Education and a tenured professor of educational policy and leadership. A former Visiting Scholar and Visiting Fellow at Harvard University, Fenwick holds an invited appointment as a MCLC Senior Fellow at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where she lectures about character leadership and ethics. Additionally, she is a 2014 Salzburg Global Fellow and a member of the 1999 cohort of American university administrators invited to the University of Oxford (Exeter College) to discuss ethics and leadership. Dr. Fenwick is the 2011 recipient of the WEB DuBois Award for Leadership in Higher Education.

A nationally-known education policy and leadership studies scholar and former urban K-12 school teacher and administrator, Dr. Fenwick is co-founder of the Howard University-American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Urban Superintendents Academy and a past member of the Harvard University Principals Center Advisory Board. Notably, Dr. Fenwick served as an appointed member of the National Academy of Sciences committee that produced the first study about mayoral control of Washington DC Public Schools.

Dr. Fenwick is described as a “fearless” advocate for education equity and is regularly called upon to testify about educational equity and college access to the U.S. Senate, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), U.S. Conference of Mayors, National Urban League, Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Education Writers Association (EWA), National Education Association (NEA), National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), and the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE). Additionally, she has been an invited speaker at the National Press Club, the Washington Lawyers’ Committee on Civil Rights and Urban Affairs and the Washington Policy Seminar.

Dr. Fenwick is a contributor to the best-selling book, *The Last Word: Controversy and Commentary in American Education*. Her op-ed articles about education, the economy and urban development have appeared in the *Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *Education Week*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. Her forthcoming book, *Jim Crow’s Pink Slip: Public Policy and the Near Decimation of Black Educational Leadership after Brown*, has been cited by the *New York Times* and *Education Week* and the Center for American Progress has referenced her research. In keeping with her research about teacher quality, during her tenure as Dean, Dr. Fenwick served as co-PI for the Ready to Teach Program – a \$2.1 million innovative teacher preparation program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and lauded as a national model by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Dr. Fenwick also managed an \$11 million teacher pipeline initiative in 7 southeastern states when she was a program officer at the Southern Education Foundation (SEF).

Dr. Fenwick is a former member of the board of directors for the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and the Council of Academic Deans from Research Education Institutions (CADREI) and advisory board for the George Lucas Education Foundation/EduTopia.

Presently, Dr. Fenwick is a member of the Scholarly Advisory Committee for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) which was established by noted historian Dr. John Hope Franklin to set the museum’s intellectual agenda and exhibition content. A science enthusiast, Dr. Fenwick was appointed by NASA Administrator (director) General Charles Bolden to NASA’s Education and Public Outreach Committee. Dr. Fenwick earned a PhD in educational policy and leadership from The Ohio State University where she was a Flescher Fellow and a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Virginia.