

Sonja D. Williams is a professor in the Department of Media, Journalism and Film at the Howard University School of Communications. Throughout her professional career, Sonja Williams has served as an educator as well as an award-winning writer and producer of features and documentaries for [National Public Radio](#) (NPR), Public Radio International (PRI), the [Smithsonian Institution](#) and radio stations nationwide. Also, she has worked as a journalist and media trainer in Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States. Currently she co-produces and edits [BIO](#), a podcast series sponsored by the Biographers International Organization.

Williams' book, [Word Warrior: Richard Durham, Radio, and Freedom](#) was published by University of Illinois Press in 2015. The [audiobook version](#) of this biography was published by Blackstone Publishing in 2018. Richard Durham was a pioneering African American writer and gifted broadcast dramatist who was posthumously inducted into the [National Radio Hall of Fame](#) in 2007.

For three consecutive years, Williams received one of the broadcast/cable industry's most prestigious honors, the George Foster Peabody Award for Significant and Meritorious Achievement. She was so honored for her role as a writer/producer for the NPR/Smithsonian series [Wade in the Water: African American Sacred Music Traditions](#), the NPR series [Making the Music](#), and the PRI/Smithsonian series [Black Radio: Telling It like It Was](#). In addition, Williams' Howard University students received Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award recognition (nicknamed the "Poor People's Pulitzer") for their documentary special *In Touch: AIDS in the African American Community*.

Williams has received fellowship support for her work from the [Black Metropolis Research Consortium](#), the [Vivian G. Harsh Society](#), the National Association of Television Program Executives, and the U.S. Department of Defense.