

## Karen Bankston, PhD, FACHE



President/CEO  
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Karen Bankston is the President/CEO of KDB and Associates Consulting Services, a company that focuses on helping organizations succeed in change. Dr. Bankston is the former chief executive officer of Drake Center, a not-for-profit, long-term acute care hospital. In that role, which she assumed in 2005, Karen guided the organization through a series of daunting challenges, relying on her tremendous leadership abilities, creative problem solving skills and knack for inspiring others. She has held a number of high-level leadership positions in her 35-year health care career, focusing on patient care, operations, government relations and community relations. She has spent most of her career in Cincinnati—at Drake Center, the Health Alliance, University Hospital and the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing and Health. Also, she held nursing and nurse management positions at Western Reserve Care System in Youngstown, Ohio. Karen serves as a mentor and is committed to helping young leaders reach their full potential. A native of Youngstown, Ohio, she is married to John Bankston and the proud mother of three adult sons.

**Industry:** Health Care

**Functional Specialty:** Leadership/Organizational Behavior

**Current Board Affiliations:** Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati; Cincinnati State Technical & Community College; Hamilton County Office on Maternal & Infant Health and Mortality Reduction; United Way of Greater Cincinnati; Urban League of Greater Cincinnati

**Community involvement:** Co-leader in the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's Agenda 360 Plan Inclusion Priority Focus Area; one of the founders of the Center for Closing the Health Gap and served as first board chair.

**National Involvement:** Served on the governing council of the American Hospital Association's Section for Long-Term Care and Rehabilitation; served on the national task

force to assist the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services with identifying criteria for admission to post-acute care services.

**Awards/Honors:** United Way of Greater Cincinnati Joseph A. Hall Diversity Leadership Award, 2010; University of Cincinnati Linda Bates Parker Legacy Award, 2010; *Cincy Magazine* Athena Finalist 2009; Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction Award, 2008; Corporate Woman of the Year–USA Regional Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, 2007; Business Courier Health Care Hero, 2005; Greater Cincinnati YWCA Career Woman of Achievement Award, 2001.

**Education:** BS and MS in Nursing, Kent State University; PhD, University of Cincinnati