

Golden H. Bethune-Hill

1985 Master of Science ★ School of Nursing
School of Nursing – Professional Achievement

Golden H. Bethune-Hill learned at an early age that education is essential to succeed. “My mother was an education fanatic,” Bethune-Hill says. “She was valedictorian of her high school class. She did not attend college herself, but she made sure my sister and I did.”

Bethune-Hill earned her bachelor’s degree in nursing from North Carolina A&T State University and her master’s degree in nursing administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. To further her education, she became a Certified Nurse Administrator in 1999 and graduated from the prestigious Wharton Fellows Program in Nurse Management at the University of Pennsylvania in 2000. While at Wharton, Bethune-Hill gained an overall understanding of health care, as well as in-depth knowledge of what can affect it. She was thrilled to soak up all she could from the three-week, invitation-only program. “I never stop learning,” she says. “I don’t think you can ever learn enough.”

At VCU, Bethune-Hill worked full time while studying for her master’s degree. She credits the VCU faculty with building on her experience base and providing a curriculum that enabled her to develop strong working relationships with her colleagues.

“Education gave me the broader picture,” Bethune-Hill says. “I understood health care better. It was the extra push from my master’s program that made my career soar.”

Throughout her 35-year career, Bethune-Hill has indeed risen through the ranks of the health care profession. She served as the president of the New Jersey Board of Nursing and as president of the Organization of Nurse Executives in New Jersey. Bethune-Hill moved on to become senior



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vice president of patient care services at Centra Health Care in Lynchburg, Va., and led the organization to Magnet status, nursing’s highest recognition for excellence in patient care and nursing.

In 2006, Bethune-Hill accepted the position of executive vice president and administrator of Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News, Va., becoming the highest-ranking black woman in the Riverside Hospital system’s history. As executive vice president of the hospital system, she collaborates with the CEO and four other executive vice presidents. As administrator at Riverside Regional, Bethune-Hill is responsible for the direction of the hospital’s leadership, including that of many of its departments and staff members. One of her duties is organizing

nursing leadership within the system.

Known as a visionary who works to advance nursing and health care, Bethune-Hill has received numerous honors for her dedication and service, including the New Jersey Governor’s Award for Excellence in Administration and the Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. In 2004 and 2005, the Lynchburg community recognized her initiative by honoring her with the Most Influential Leader Award.

“I have a passion for excellence,” Bethune-Hill says. “I am extremely driven, partly because of my mother, who instilled in me that I could do anything in the world.”

Bethune-Hill is married to Charlie W. Hill, who, she says, shares her drive and commitment to excellence in his role as executive vice president of Landmark Communications Inc. Together, they have seven adult children.