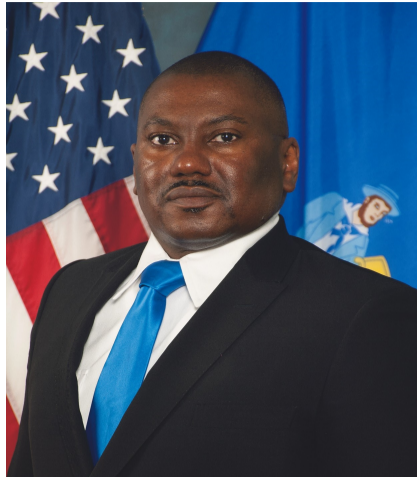


July 13, 2021

One Team! With One Fight!

Darrell L. Williams, Ph.D.
Administrator
Wisconsin Emergency
Management



How has NEMA most benefitted you?

NEMA has been essential to my personal and professional growth, especially in the realm of emergency management. NEMA's professional development, conference offerings and various meetings and discussions with other emergency management professionals has expanded my knowledge and enhanced my own leadership skillset. As well, the ongoing collaboration, comradery, and support from NEMA as well as other state leaders has been comforting. It is a true example that we are—One team! With One fight! More humbly, NEMA has allowed me the honor of being a strong voice of advocacy for Wisconsinites at the national, state, and local level.

After serving in education as an administrator and teacher for over 25 years; what inspired you to move into emergency management?

I am proud to serve as the State of Wisconsin's Administrator of Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM). My entire professional career has been dedicated to public service. I was inspired and viewed this role as a unique opportunity to utilize my educational and military leadership experience to serve and make a difference for the people of Wisconsin. During my tenure, I have had the honor and pleasure to serve with a dynamic team here at WEM who truly epitomizes the value of self-less service.

You provide a voice to those that are rarely heard. How does your active community involvement with various professional and non-profit organizations help you in your role as Administrator?

For over 25 years, I served as an educator and "Turn Around" principal in some of Wisconsin's most challenging schools. In this role, I also interacted with many non-profit and professional organizations to include law enforcement agencies across the state. These experiences combined with those over 29 years of military service in the U.S. Army earning both the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart] allowed me to form invaluable relationships in "high and low" places through-out the state. Those relationships have served me well in my role as Administrator. In this role, it has allowed me to be seated at the table as I represent all people, as well as be a voice for the voiceless. Overall, because of these experiences and relationships, it has helped me be a better vessel to navigate obstacles, as well as bridge the gap between FEMA and State resources to better meet the needs of our local communities.

Most recently, such relationships proved to be significant during periods of civil unrest. As a result of these genuine relationships, significant intelligence was gathered that preserved people's right to protest peacefully—while protecting key infrastructure and more importantly, saving lives.

As a published author and co-author of several articles and book chapters; who is your favorite author and why?

I love to write, and I love to read. However, I am sort of an old soul. Two of my favorite authors are Dr. W.E.B. Dubois and Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Dr. W.E.B Dubois wrote the books entitled The Souls of Black Folk and The Philadelphia Negro. Dr. Carter G. Woodson wrote the book entitled The Mis-Education of the Negro and the Negro in our History. Although both authors wrote these classics long ago, their impact still resonates today.

In the stones you have collected from all over the world, which stone is your favorite and why? What motivated you to stone collecting and the art of beading?

I have always been intrigued by the beauty Mother Nature creates. Of the many beautiful rocks and stones that I collect, I really love the Purple Labradorite and Ametrine. I like Purple Labradorite because of the way light reflects through it. It is amazing, especially when it is mixed with gold, pink and other colors. I love Ametrine, a mix of amethyst and citrine, because of the beautiful royal purple and gold pattern it creates together. As well, royal purple and old gold happens to be my favorite colors. I have been collecting rocks and beads for many years. Tumbling and polishing rocks to the right size and shapes can be difficult and it does take time. However, it gives me great joy to mold, what would appear to be, an ordinary piece of rock or wood into a masterpiece for others to enjoy.



How does one become a professional pen-turner, like yourself? What is your favorite material to work with for the best-looking pen and why?

Another hobby that I really enjoy is pen-turning. My favorite woods to work with are the 'burl' woods. The burl is the deformity or odd knot on the side of a particular tree. I love those knots because they make the most beautiful patterns for pens. Brazilian Rosewood and Amboyna Burl are two of my favorite woods to turn for pens.



Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year. It is today that we fit ourselves for the greater usefulness of tomorrow. Today is the seed time, now are the hours of the greater, and tomorrow comes the harvest and the playtime."

– Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois



Mark your calendar

NEMA 2021 Annual Forum
Cleveland, Ohio - October 12-15

Sponsorships open to members August 2,
 registration open August 23.
 For information on the Sponsor Program
 visit the [NEMA website](https://www.nemaweb.org).

[nemaweb.org](https://www.nemaweb.org)

