 *Walidah G. Bennett is the Founder and Director of the Multi-faith Veterans Initiative, located at DePaul University Egan Office of Urban Education and Community Partnerships. The initiative collaborates with faith-based and community organizations to create community circles of support that connect veterans and their families to services and resources within the community. The initiative offers education and training on veteran transition issues and helps to create partnerships between the faith community and behavioral health providers. Bennett is passionate about community engagement and believes in fostering public/private and community partnerships to create change that aligns with the community's values. She believes that effective solutions to community issues should be community driven.*

*Bennett has held numerous executive positions overseeing programs in mental health, child welfare, employment & training, and women's international policy. As a panelist and guest speaker, she has addressed a wide range of topics at the local, state, national, and international levels, and has written several articles that focus on issues impacting women, children, and families.*

*She was appointed to the Commission on Veteran Affairs for the City of Chicago and serves on the State of Illinois Governor's Challenge Veterans Suicide Prevention committee.*

*Bennett has received numerous awards and recognition for her work and is listed in Who's Who of the World's Women and 2000 Notable Women. She holds degrees from Northeastern Illinois University and has professional certificates from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. Bennett previously served on the faculty at South Suburban College in the Department of Social & Behavioral Science.*