

Dr. Bahby Banks is being recognized as the 2025 Robert “Ed” Strother Partnership Award winner!

The Durham County Department of Public Health connected with Dr. Banks and Pillar Consulting in 2020 as they both addressed COVID-19 among Black, Hispanic, and other historically marginalized populations in Durham County. Dr. Banks brought her substantial expertise to the development of a health equity framework used to monitor disparities data and guide implementation of evidence-based efforts to increase health literacy, increase access to comprehensive, high-quality health care services and help clients access recommended preventive health care services.

In the midst of the continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Banks and her organization also worked to tap the energy and authentic voices of Durham youth through #NAH – [Not a Host](#) – a media-based campaign to help community members understand the evolving science of coronaviruses, layered prevention strategies, and the importance of protecting vulnerable community members. As a part of #NAH, Dr. Banks created a youth ambassador program focused on media engagement and STEAM topics – science, technology, engineering, arts and math.

Involved youth also visited the Durham County Department of Public Health to learn more about Public Health’s role in providing immunizations, distributing home test kits, and providing continued community education.

During an information session with Durham County PH leadership, the youth asked questions about how public health relates to their lives, future career opportunities, and ways to influence the health behaviors of their peers and family members.

Dr. Bahby Banks defines the values embodied in the **Robert “Ed” Strother Partnership Award** for all the work she and her team at Pillar Consulting have done in partnership with the Durham County Department of Public Health to improve the health and wellbeing of Durham County and the future of public health in North Carolina; and for these reasons, this award is presented to her today.