Sally Williams

A native Staten Islander, Williams is the daughter of Dr. Arleigh B. Williamson, a driving force in the establishment of the College of Staten Island. Her education spans from Curtis High School to Cornell University, where she received a degree in Government.

Her professional career, all in the federal government, spanned 35 years. She began her tenure with the Civil Service Commission in Washington, DC, then worked for several years with the Department of the Army in Boston before moving to Japan with her former husband who had been awarded a four-year fellowship to study Japanese law, following his graduation from Harvard. Williams’s two children, Keiko and Tim, were born in Japan during this time.

Eventually, the family returned to Staten Island. Williams resumed her career with the U.S. Civil Service Commission (which later became the Office of Personnel Management) a few years later, serving in the New York Regional office. Subsequently, she moved to Commission offices in Buffalo (where she was the first woman to run the office), San Francisco (where she worked to establish that office), and Newark, before landing in Philadelphia where she became Chief of the Staffing Services Division, overseeing the agency’s field offices throughout the Northeast and in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. She retired from this position.

Williams has also served as the former President of the New York State Chapter of the International Personnel Management Association, the New York Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), and National Chair for ASPA’s Section for Personnel and Labor Relations.

Williams, in an effort to continue her father’s commitment to the community, has served in a number of high-profile roles on Staten Island. She is a founding member and past President of the College of Staten Island Foundation, where she continues to serve on the Board of Directors. She is also past President of the Greenbelt Conservancy (where she facilitated the opening of the Greenbelt Nature Center) and a current Board member; former Vice President and Treasurer of the Staten Island Botanical Garden; and former President of the Staten Island Citizens’ Planning Committee of the Freshkills Landfill. She continues her work today as a community activist.