

**From:** Jaime Matthews  
**Sent:** 5/20/2021 12:14:30 PM  
**To:** "William Turner" <[whturnerphd@gmail.com](mailto:whturnerphd@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: Bio and Headshot

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Thank you so much!  
This is great and have a wonderful afternoon.

Jaime

On Thu, May 20, 2021 at 1:13 PM William Turner <[whturnerphd@gmail.com](mailto:whturnerphd@gmail.com)> wrote:

Ms Matthews- I was poised to get something like this to you today: having been traveling since Sunday. If you're okay with this, it's just fine with me. BillTurner

Sent from my iPhone

On May 20, 2021, at 11:53 AM, Jaime Matthews <[jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:jmatthews@ashevillenc.gov)> wrote:

Dr. Turner,

I have pulled your bio and headshot from your website. Are you ok if we use this for our website and programs for the event?



**William H. Turner, PhD**, the fifth of ten children, was born in 1946 in the coal town of Lynch, Kentucky, in Harlan County. His grandfathers, father, four uncles and older brother were coal miners.

Bill has spent his professional career studying and working on behalf of marginalized communities, helping them create opportunities in the larger world while not abandoning their important cultural ties. He is best-known for his ground-breaking research on African-American communities in Appalachia, but Bill's work is universal. As an academic and a consultant, he has studied economic systems and social structures in the urban South and burgeoning Latino communities in the Southwest. What he strives for on behalf of his clients and their communities is what we all want: prosperity, understanding and respect.

Today, Bill and his wife, Vivian – the retired President of the R.J. Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem, N.C. – live near their children and grandchildren in Houston.

## Education

BS - Sociology - University of Kentucky  
Foreign Affairs Scholars Program - Howard University  
MS - Sociology - Notre Dame University  
PhD - Sociology & Anthropology - Notre Dame University  
Post Doctoral || University of Pennsylvania || Duke University

## Career highlights to date

- Co-edited the path-breaking textbook *Blacks in Appalachia* and thematic essays on Black Appalachians in the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, and the *Encyclopedia of Appalachia*.
- Research associate (1979-1991) to *Roots* author Alex Haley, who said, “*Bill knows more about black people in the mountains of the South than anyone in the world.*”
- Chair, Department of Social Sciences, Winston-Salem State University.
- Center for the Study of Civil Rights & Race Relations, Duke University. Ford Foundation-sponsored post-doctoral fellow. John Hope Franklin, Adviser.
- Formerly Dean of Arts and Sciences and Interim President, Kentucky State University, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs, University of Kentucky; and, Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Studies and Regional Ambassador at Berea College.
- At the time of his retirement in late 2017, Turner was Research Scientist Leader at the Prairie View A&M University College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, where he led the collection and analysis of data on underserved Texans, the economically insecure, and long-term impoverished.

## Honors

- In “recognition of transformative leadership, distinguished service and notable accomplishments” the University of North Carolina Asheville awarded Turner an Honorary Doctorate in August, 2020.
- In 2009, Turner was recommended by members of the Kentucky delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives to President Obama to serve as Federal Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional Commission.
- In 2009, the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA) honored Bill for a lifetime of service to the Appalachian region.
- In 2008, Bill was recognized as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Citizen of the Year, for “advocating for the rights and expanded educational opportunities for people in Appalachian Kentucky.”
- In 2007, Turner was inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame.
- Turner was named Notre Dame University “Distinguished Alumni Exemplar” in 2006.
- Turner was honored as Christian Appalachian Project “Person of the Year” in 1994.

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### Jaime Matthews

#### Assistant to the City Manager

City of Asheville

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