

## Nicole R. Robinson, Ph.D.

Cultural Connections by Design, Founder & CEO

Dr. Nicole R. Robinson most recently served the Associate Vice President for Equity and Diversity and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Leadership Fellow at the University of Utah. Before joining the faculty at the University of Utah in 2013 as the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Presidential Endowed Professor, she served on the faculty at Syracuse University, University of Memphis, and Virginia Commonwealth University. She started her career as an elementary and middle school music teacher in North Carolina.

Dr. Robinson is the founder and CEO of Cultural Connections by Design (CCBD), a diversity consulting company that distinguishes itself by providing *diversity education*, not *diversity training*. Using her experiences from her prominent 25+ year academic career, Dr. Robinson employs creative, innovative, and “out of the box” processes to support deeper learning and understanding about the complexities of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Dr. Robinson’s unique approach incorporates her propriety “game-like” learning tools as well as a technology-infused process that leads to a fun and engaging interaction that makes a deep impression and creates lasting results. CCBD has worked with an array of organizations, including academic institutions, health care organizations, government agencies, non-profits and corporations to guide the shift their diversity paradigm and create a culture of belonging – a culture that accepts, values, and views strength in the differences. Clients have referred to her as a “healer” in the D&I space.

Dr. Robinson is nationally acclaimed as an educator, scholar, speaker, and author; and has presented her research at national and international conferences, published in several of the industry’s leading research journals, and authored two academic textbooks. She has committed her life’s work to transforming educational and organizational cultures through systemic change processes centered around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Dr. Robinson holds a bachelors and masters degrees from North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC and a PhD from The Florida State University in music education.

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Dr. Nicole R. Robinson officially launched Cultural Connections by Design in 2018, a diversity education consulting company. She is a veteran academic professor and administrator including joined the School of Music faculty at the University of Utah as a Visiting Associate Professor fulfilling the responsibilities of the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Endowed Chair of Elementary Music Education for the 2013-2014 academic year. Dr. Robinson has established a national reputation for her partnership and outreach projects with various educational boards, professional organizations, and urban school districts across the country. She earned the Bachelor of Arts and Master of Music degrees in Music Education from North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC) and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Music Education from The Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL). Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Utah, Robinson held faculty appointments at Syracuse University, University of Memphis and Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Robinson has been commissioned by several private, charter, and public schools for integrative arts curriculum development. She co-authored the textbook *Teaching Elementary Music: Integrating Music with Other Academic Subjects and General Music K-12*. She has presented her research at regional, national, and international conferences and symposia and has published in various leading professional journals including the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Music Educators Journal*, *General Music Today*, *Journal of National Association for the Education of Young Children* and *Action, Criticism, & Theory for Music Education*.

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In August 2018, she launched **Cultural Connections by Design**, a diversity education consulting company to support academic institutions ability to shift their cultural paradigm to create cultures of belonging. Her innovative approach to diversity education has been used in school districts, colleges and universities, healthcare institutions, and corporations across the country.