

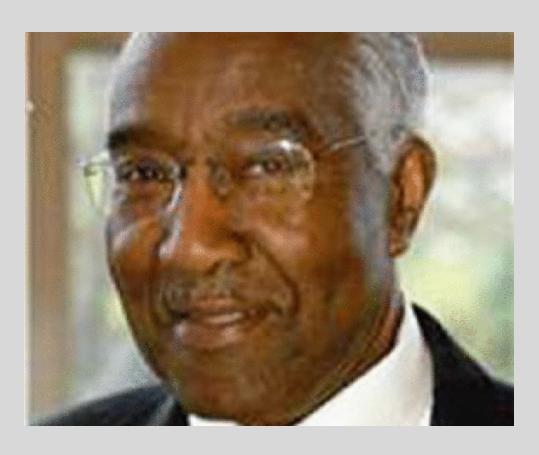
Thomas E. Roberson, MSPH





- First African American SOPHE President 1963
- Worked for US Health Education & Welfare (now HHS)
- Twice WHO appointed envoy to Middle Congo & Liberia, Africa to address fighting tropical diseases and training local public health officers in modern methods & techniques
- SOPHE Trustee 1958; chaired, Professional Education Committee
- SOPHE Board 1958 Minutes "T. Roberson indicated that we need to think in terms of employment as well as recruitment. Professionally-prepared Negroes have difficulty being placed. The employment of minority groups in general is a problem. It was agreed that SOPHE should join with other national groups during the coming years to find placement for health educators of minority groups."

William Darity 1924-2015



- SOPHE President 1969
- He earned his baccalaureate degree from Shaw University, his MSPH degree from North Carolina Central University, and his DrPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where in 1964 he was the first African American to earn a doctorate at the university
- After working in antipoverty programs in North Carolina, in 1965 Dr. Darity accepted a faculty appointment at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he conducted research on smoking and cancer in Blacks.
- In 1973, he became the founding dean of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst School of Health Sciences
- World Health Organization (WHO) for 10 years as a WHO regional advisor to 17 countries







Marcia Pinkett-Heller, MPH

SOPHE President – 1979

First African American Female SOPHE President

Chair, Health Sciences, NJ City University

Focused on professional preparation and struggling membership

Research to improve minority children with asthma

Helped bring MLK, Jr. Statue to Bergen, NJ in 2016



Collins Airhihenbuwa, PhD

SOPHE President – 2004

Professor and Director, Global Research Against Noncommunicable Disease (GRAND) Initiative Georgia State University School of PH

Developed cultural model (PEN -3) that is used in several countries to develop programs and interventions to address health inequity.

SOPHE's first Research Agenda to Eliminate Health Disparities

Adenike Bitto, MD, MPH, DrPH, MCHES, FRSPH



- SOPHE President 2017
- Former professor, East Stroudsburg University
- Fellow, Royal Society of Public Health
- Chaired, Emergency Preparedness
 CoP
- Focused on interdisciplinary collaboration among response teams
- New Strategic Plan 2017 2020 adopted



Deborah Fortune, PhD, FAAHE

SOPHE President – 2021

Professor, North Carolina Central University

Former AAHE staff

Interests - HIV & sexual health among African American college women, professional preparation in health education, youth violence prevention, and faculty & youth mentoring

Established SOPHE HBCU Advisory Council

