

## Dr. Maria Shantell Williams

Living out her meaningful assignment in mental health and leadership development, Dr. Maria has 12 years of experience working with education systems, mental health agencies, and community organizations. In 2007, she was selected as a national, inaugural fellow with SAMHSA and The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. She is the founder of the Relationship Institute, a counseling and consulting firm which specializes in enhancing personal and professional relationships. Additionally, she is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and certified Organizational and Leadership Consultant trained under the phenomenal John Maxwell.

Dr. Maria Shantell Williams has organized and hosted numerous community summits centered on engaging at risk youth, community leaders, and professional black women. She has used media outlets such as television, newspapers, and magazines to discuss health, family, and relationship matters. She is known for her wisdom, innovation, and approachable way of relating to others. She enjoys spending time with family, mentoring young ladies, and volunteering in the community. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, The Urban Congress, The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, The John Maxwell Team, Louisiana Counseling Association, and Junior League of Baton Rouge. Dr. Maria hopes to continue her journey of utilizing her leadership experience and training in relationship dynamics to assist individuals and organizations in accomplishing their goals for growth and development.