

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION WEEK

2021 SPEAKER BIO

Sandra Bates, MD

Radiologist

Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, Alvin C. York Campus

Sandra A. Bates, MD, completed her undergraduate degree at Grinnell College before returning to her birthplace (George W. Hubbard Hospital) to follow in her father's footsteps as a graduate from Nashville, Tenn.-based Meharry Medical College. Inspired by her medical school mentors, Drs. Jack Tarleton and Edwin Mitchell, she completed a joint residency in Diagnostic and Therapeutic Radiology at Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where she was the first of only two women graduates.



After beginning her career in radiology at Meharry, Dr. Bates served as a practicing civilian radiologist at Ireland Army Community Hospital in Fort Knox, Ky., and as a faculty radiologist at Nashville General Hospital. She later joined the staff at Alvin C. York Veterans Hospital in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where she practiced as a radiologist for nearly 40 years. She was the section leader in ultrasound radiology, responsible for creating policies and procedures that aided in providing excellent medical care to veterans. Throughout her career, she taught and mentored hundreds of residents from Meharry's Internal, Family and Occupational Medicine departments.

Dr. Bates is the first black woman to practice radiology in the state of Tennessee, and the first black woman radiologist to open a solo practice in ultrasound radiology in the state of Tennessee. She paved the way for many by mentoring and providing shadowing opportunities for numerous students, including underrepresented minorities interested in STEM, medicine and/or radiology. Beloved by students, technologists and her radiology and medical colleagues, Dr. Bates never misses an opportunity to share her wealth of knowledge and inspire others to -- as she is known for saying -- "Make it a great day."

Dr. Bates will speak at the following 2021 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Week event:

- **Panel Discussion: "Historical Perspectives of URM's in Medicine"**
Wednesday, July 21 (Noon to 1 p.m., Zoom)