

Tarika Barrett

CEO, Girls Who Code

With a career dedicated to addressing inequities in education and helping young women of all backgrounds succeed, Dr. Tarika Barrett is at the forefront of expanding the pipeline of women entering tech and removing the obstacles that stand in the way of them reaching their full potential. As the CEO of Girls Who Code, an international non-profit organization disrupting the tech industry and transforming perceptions of what a programmer can look like, she spearheads initiatives aimed at closing the gender gap in technology by inspiring, educating, and equipping young women with the computing skills to pursue 21st century opportunities.

Exclusively represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), Dr. Barrett is a STEM education champion who speaks passionately about fighting for equity, change, and diversity. She walks audiences through issues that cause disparities and hinder achievement in education and the workplace — especially for women of color. Driven by her experience growing up the daughter of a Jamaican mother who instilled in her the importance of education and mentorship, Dr. Barrett shares actionable steps for progressing organizational culture to create environments that are more representative, inclusive, and supportive of women and other diverse groups.

Dr. Barrett joined Girls Who Code in 2016 and, in February 2021, was handpicked by founder Reshma Saujani to lead the organization's movement into the future. As CEO, she is focused on creating greater opportunities for women in STEM fields and advancing toward the ambitious goal of closing the gender gap in new entry-level tech jobs by 2030. Before taking the reins as CEO of Girls Who Code, Dr. Barrett held the roles of COO and vice president of programs, leading the organization's free Summer Immersion Program and after-school Clubs Program, which have reached 580,000 girls around the world to date. She also managed the People & Culture team, as well as the launch of international and alumni programming.

Spending two decades building educational pathways for young people, before joining Girls Who Code Dr. Barrett served as the chief program officer at iMentor, leading the organization's programmatic efforts to build mentoring relationships that support students from low-income families in graduating high school and succeeding in college. Prior to that, she worked in the Office of Postsecondary Readiness at the New York City Department of Education overseeing options for students off track academically, as well as developing new school models, including the Academy of Software Engineering — the first of its kind in New York. Dr. Barrett's other previous experience includes serving as deputy network leader of the Brooklyn-Staten Island Network of New Visions for Public Schools, designing and implementing research and program evaluations for New York University's Center for Teaching and Learning, teaching high school students, and working as a community organizer.

A graduate of Brooklyn College, Dr. Barrett has an M.A. in deaf education from Columbia Teachers College and a Ph.D. in teaching and learning from New York University. She has served on the boards of CSforALL, Eskolta, and McGraw Hill, a leading learning science company creating world-class educational content and providing best-in-class digital platforms for learners and educators. She also sits on the Homeland Security Advisory Council, is the recipient of the New York University Steinhardt School Dorothy Height Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, and was named one of *Crain's* 50 Most Powerful Women in New York in 2021.