

Vivian Dickson (USDA NRCS) Brief Bio

Vivian Dickson is a distinguished public servant with more than three decades of experience in federal service, program management, outreach and advocacy, legislative affairs, civil rights, public affairs, environmental justice, and conservation policy. She currently serves as the Chesapeake Bay Coordinator for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), where she provides strategic leadership and facilitates coordination among federal, state, and regional partners in support of Chesapeake Bay conservation and restoration priorities.

Prior to assuming this role, Vivian served as Director of Partnerships. She previously held the position of Senior Program Branch Manager for the NRCS Outreach and Advocacy Division and served as Program Manager for the Conservation and Resource Division. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership in developing partnerships, strengthening program delivery, and advancing conservation initiatives that serve farmers, ranchers, historically underserved communities, and other stakeholders.

Throughout her U.S. House of Representative, Political, USDA and NRCS career, Vivian has held leadership and programmatic responsibilities in Outreach and Partnership, Civil Rights, Legislative Affairs, and Public Affairs. Her work has supported conservation program delivery, scholarship initiatives, policy development, women in agriculture, community-based and grassroots organizations, and customized training for employees and customers. She is widely recognized for building partnerships, strengthening organizational capacity, and advancing meaningful engagement between federal programs and the communities they serve.

Vivian serves on the Professional Agricultural Workers Conference Advisory Board, the USDA Environmental Justice Committee, and the North Carolina A&T Bioengineering Student Task Force. She also served as the National Planning Chair for the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees, a leadership position she held from 2008-2016. In this capacity, she coordinated national meeting logistics, select educational presentations, develops program activities, and raised funds to support farmer participation. Vivian has been an active member of the organization since 2007 and a life member since 2012.

Her distinguished service has been recognized through numerous awards, including the 2018 Congressional Women in Congress, Sojourner Truth Award, the 2017 Professional Agricultural Workers Conference Outstanding Leadership and Service Award, the 2015 Winston County Self-Help Cooperative Award for Exemplary Leadership, the 2014 Pearlie

S. Reed Award of Excellence, the 2009–2014 NOPBNRCSE President’s Award, and the 2008 MANRS Platinum Patron Award for Service.

A native of Scott County, Mississippi, Vivian attended high school in Morton, Mississippi. She pursued higher education at Jackson State University and American University, earning academic degrees in Political Science and Environmental Law.

Vivian is the proud mother of two adult children, Malcolm and Amber Dickson. Her life and career reflect an enduring commitment to public service, conservation, equitable program delivery, and the empowerment of farmers, families, and communities.