

2024 VOICE for Children Award Recipient

**Dr. April L. Torrence**

**Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Zion Education Center**

Dr. April L. Torrence, a visionary leader, serves as the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Zion Education Center in Farrel, PA. With a remarkable track record, she has spearheaded efforts to secure over $4,000,000 in funding, enabling the prevision of top-tier educational and employment opportunities for socio-economically disadvantaged families in the Mercer County region.

Beginning her professional journey in finance and administration, April’s administrative skills were developed while serving as a U.S. Treasury accounting clerk for the Federal Reserves Bank, Pittsburgh Branch, and various banks in western Pennsylvania. Her academic pursuits reflect her commitment to excellence, culminating in undergraduate degrees in Business Administrations and Human Resource Management from Penn State University. She furthered her education at Geneva College, earning a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership, followed by a Doctorate in Philosophy in Instructional Management and Leadership from Robert Morris University in 2015.

Recognized for her outstanding contributions, Dr. Torrence was inducted into the Farrell Alumni Hall of Fame in 2018 for her dedication to Early Childhood Education. Her passion for education extends to her role as a Business Administration adjunct professor at Westminster College and her supervision of student account executives and interns at West Virginia University.

Dr. Torrence serves on various boards including the Primary Health Foundation, Butler County Community College, The Northwest Institute of Research, and the Board of Elders at New Life Family Worship Center.

Beyond academia, Dr. Torrence is deeply engaged in social change initiatives; including the concept developer of The Children & Youth Prevention Empowerment Network (CYPEN) and The Operation Lighthouse Project; both addressing the negative effects of substance abuse and trauma in the homes of young children.

Dr. Torrence's contributions have earned her recognition, including commendations and citations from the City of Farrell, PA, PA State Representative Mark Longietti, and PA State Senator Michelle Brooks. In addition, she was bestowed with the prestigious NAACP Frances Hooks Award in 2022 and acclaimed as the 2021 Woman Entrepreneur of the Year by SCORE, highlighting her outstanding achievements and leadership in both her profession and community endeavors.

Dr. Torrence is married to Kevin Torrence and they have three children.