



## ANITA M. LEWIS

### PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Anita M. Lewis sharpened her professional skills working in the non-profit, advertising, media, policy, government affairs and healthcare industries for over 20 years. Currently representing AmeriHealth Caritas as the Director of Government and External Affairs for the state of Pennsylvania, Anita serves as an advocate to protect and promote access to health care while working with staffers and members of the general assembly to create policy that assures the state's most fragile residents of the Commonwealth are provided quality coordinated care.

Prior to joining AmeriHealth, Ms. Lewis was the Legislative Program Manager at Health Partners Plans and partnered with and educated federal and state legislators representing Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties about health care issues impacting their constituents.

While working for Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent J. Hughes she served as the Communications / Public Relations Liaison. In this role she promoted the Senator's activities and community events, pitched policy initiatives to the press and hosted press conferences (both in the Capitol and in the district) to highlight the Senator's accomplishments, including funding for HIV testing & education programs and higher education preparation and funding opportunities.

Many of Anita's community commitments include her advocacy for programs and opportunities that focus on the youth and young adults. Ms. Lewis has served on the boards of the *National Black Child Development Institute*, the *North Philadelphia Community Compact for College Access*, *Freire Charter School* and *Columbia-North YMCA*. Most recently she served as vice chair of *Global Leadership Academy Charter School* and continues to support their academic and fundraising efforts.

Along with being one of the founding members and past president of the *Philadelphia Black Public Relations Society* (BPRS), Ms. Lewis served as a member of the *Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists* (PABJ) and the *National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Pennsylvania Chapter* for many years. She was acknowledged as a member of the first installment of professional women recognized as *Young Women Making a Difference*, an initiative developed from Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown's Women's History Month event, *Women Making a Difference Awards*. Furthermore, she was acknowledged as a *Philadelphia Leader* in the *Philadelphia Tribune Newspaper's Most Influential Philadelphians* for multiple years and was recognized as one of the *Philadelphia Business Journal's 40 Under 40*.

She received her undergraduate degree from Temple University School of Journalism and obtained her Masters in Communication Research from the University of Akron in Ohio.