



Dr. Derrick Gay

Dr. Derrick Gay is a globally recognized Belonging and Intercultural Strategist, dedicated to fostering cultures of dignity and respect. With multifaceted expertise as an international speaker, author, researcher, educator, and university lecturer, Dr. Gay empowers individuals and organizations to deepen belonging and empathy by cultivating shared language, raising awareness, and fostering inclusive personal behaviors and organizational practices and policies.

Drawing from his extensive international experience, Dr. Gay designs meaningful strategies that resonate across a broad range of industries and cultures. His approach, informed by research and practitioner experiences in over 50 countries, facilitates meaningful connections and promotes belonging on a global scale.

Fluent in five languages, Dr. Gay has supported a broad clientele spanning the globe, including over 800 organizations in education, financial services, beauty and fashion, non-profits, and the arts. Beyond international independent schools his clients range from Yale to Oberlin Conservatory, Phantom of the Opera to Tom Ford, The Guggenheim Museum to Barilla — and Sesame Street. Dr. Gay is a proud graduate of Oberlin College, where he studied Romance Languages; Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied Opera; Columbia University, where he studied Educational Leadership, and The University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his doctorate in Education.

A lifelong educator, Dr. Gay has served as adjunct faculty/lecturer at University of Pennsylvania, Columbia Business School, International Fashion Academy, Parsons Paris, and Teachers College at Columbia University. He also currently serves on the board of MERIT Music School, having previously served on the boards of the National Guild for Community Arts Education, Caedmon School, and Greens Farms Academy.

Finally, no stranger to HKIS, Dr. Gay visited last spring to work with our Belonging Committee, which included teachers, administrators, and board members.