

## **Dr. Adren O. Wilson – long version bio**

Dr. Adren Wilson's achievements are truly commendable, as they mirror his profound sense of commitment, hard work, and passion. Bold spirited, he hurdled countless challenges while growing up in extreme poverty in rural Louisiana.

Adren received his bachelor's degrees in History and Political Science from Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a Doctorate Degree in Public Policy from the Nelson Mandela School of Government at Southern University. In 1995, LSU established the Adren Wilson Outstanding LSU Ambassador Award in his honor.

He has held numerous leadership positions as a national CEO, community leader, administrator and reformer working to lift individuals, families, and communities out of poverty. Some of the positions include: National Director of Youth and Student Leadership at the Children's Defense Fund, national CEO of Public Allies, a national service program that has advanced the leadership of more than 10,000 diverse young leaders; Assistant Secretary of the Office of Family Support appointed by Governor Kathleen Blanco – Governor Blanco was the first female Governor of Louisiana, and served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards – only democratic Governor in the deep south from 2015-2023.

Currently, Dr. Wilson serves as the Vice President of Youth Opportunity Programs and Executive Director for My Brother's Keeper Alliance at the Obama Foundation. In this role, he leads the signature program created by President Obama and guides the efforts of thousands in over 200 communities across America.