

# Ayanna Naki Wilcher

Ayanna Naki Wilcher, M.Ed. is a seasoned talent strategist, speaker, and advocate with over 20 years of experience in Talent Acquisition, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and higher education leadership. She has held key roles at leading organizations such as Cigna, GDIT, and KPMG, where she led innovative early talent initiatives and advanced national diversity hiring strategies.

Ayanna is also the founder of Rising in Grace, an organization born from her personal journey as a breast cancer survivor. Through Rising in Grace, she provides post-mastectomy care kits and healing resources that restore dignity, comfort, and confidence to women in recovery.

Her career spans both corporate and academic sectors, with a track record of building inclusive programs, mentoring future leaders, and driving systemic change. Ayanna holds a B.S. in Computer Science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a master's in educational leadership from Lehigh University. She has also served on the boards of national professional organizations, led major conferences, and remains deeply involved in service and civic engagement.

Ayanna lives in Houston, Texas with her husband of 28 years and is the proud mother of three. Her life's work reflects her commitment to empowerment, purpose-driven leadership, and helping others rise through adversity—with grace.