

## **PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHY**

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Serina Gaston is the Director of Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Pennsylvania Department of Health, a newly created division which directs, coordinates, monitors and implements health promotion programs in the area of diabetes, asthma, and obesity by addressing the underlying risk factors of physical activity and nutrition. Mrs. Gaston has a Masters in Education with a concentration in Health Education from the Pennsylvania State University. In her previous job, Ms. Gaston worked in the Bureau of Health Planning as the Director of Plan Development. In that role, she supervised the development of strategies for the creation and implementation of the State Health Improvement Plan. She also supervised and led the affiliation process of local community-based public health partnerships and worked with them to share information and develop local health plans which are consistent with the state health improvement plan. In the past, Ms Gaston has volunteered as a mentor in the Women's Leadership Initiative at the Pennsylvania State University in College Park, PA. This program provides an excellent opportunity for fifth semester women students majoring in one of the disciplines of the College of Health & Human Development to develop the core values, attitudes and competencies that are the foundation of quality leadership. In addition, she is actively involved with a non-profit organization that assists homeless women and children.