

Donna E. Shalala

Donna Shalala is a distinguished fellow in the Economic Studies Program at the Brookings Institution and the Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform. Shalala is a former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and current President of the University of Miami.



One of the country's first Peace Corps volunteers, she is an accomplished scholar, teacher, administrator, and highly decorated public servant. She has served as U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (1993-2001); chancellor of the University of Wisconsin – Madison (1987-1993); president of Hunter College of the City University New York (1980-1987); and assistant secretary for Policy Development and Research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Development (1977-1980).

A recognized expert in health and social policy, she was selected by President George W. Bush to co-chair with Senator Bob Dole the Commission on Care for Returning Wounded Warriors. She has received more than four dozen honorary degrees and in 2008 received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian award. In 2010, she received the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights, which recognizes individuals for outstanding dedication to improving the health and life chances of disadvantaged populations in South Africa and internationally. In 2011, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, New York.

She received her PhD at the Maxwell School at Syracuse University and A.B. degree from Western College for Women. She has been elected to the Council on Foreign Relations; National Academy of Education; the National Academy of Public Administration; the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the American Philosophical Society; the National Academy of Social Insurance; the American Academy of Political and Social Science; and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

[March 2012]