Influential Women Profiles Jennifer Garrison: Advancing Federal Health Strategy And Mission-Driven Leadership Today



JAMISON, PA, UNITED STATES, September 16, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Chief People Officer, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), supporting enterprise-wide CMS workforce strategy in culture transformation, fellowships, leadership and development, employee experience and engagement, and succession planning. Served as Vice President, Federal Health at Maximus and Director, Global Medical Affairs, Strategy & Execution at Johnson & Johnson; retired Air Force Colonel with 25 years of Healthcare Expertise and Enterprise Strategy to Drive Innovation Across Complex Health Systems.

Jamison, Pennsylvania – Dr. Jennifer Garrison has built an accomplished career in healthcare and military leadership, marked by a commitment to excellence in operational medicine, strategic planning, and organizational transformational growth. She is actively engaged as the Chief People Officer at Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and is responsible for developing and executing an enterprise-wide and human capital strategy that enables CMS to accomplish its mission. She recently served as the Vice President, Federal Health at Maximus where she oversaw medical exam services, supply chain and cold chain management, clinical operations, knowledge management, information technology utilizing artificial intelligence and machine learning, and the development of the Federal Health platform on an international scale.

Dr. Garrison holds a PhD in Health Services from Walden University, earned in 2015 and earned a Doctorate in Business Administration from Walden University in 2026. She is affiliated with the American College of Healthcare Executives, International Agency of Emergency Management, Delta Mu Delta, Omega Nu Lambda, and the National Society of Leadership and Success. Her

career accomplishments include a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies at the Air War College and demonstrated impactful work as the team lead of six Colonels who wrote and published "Medical Support in a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Contested Environments."

Throughout her career, Jennifer has led enterprise-wide workforce transformation initiatives involving multi-billion-dollar portfolios, national provider networks, and global medical affairs programs. Her leadership experience spans federal program execution, healthcare operations, supply chain optimization, advanced data and analytics, and organizational transformation. She has consistently demonstrated the ability to navigate complex challenges, align diverse stakeholders, and develop solutions that create lasting impact.

During her time with organizations including the Defense Health Agency and Johnson & Johnson, Jennifer played key roles in advancing healthcare strategy and operational performance. Among her many accomplishments, she contributed to the Department of Defense COVID-19 vaccine distribution effort, coordinating large, cross-functional teams responsible for delivering millions of vaccines while maintaining operational accuracy, regulatory compliance, and cold chain integrity.

Known for translating complex clinical, regulatory, and operational challenges into actionable strategies, Jennifer has built a reputation as a trusted leader capable of driving execution at scale. Her ability to connect workforce policy objectives with practical implementation has allowed her to support healthcare systems through periods of significant change and uncertainty.

As a strategic advisor to senior executives, policymakers, and government leaders, Jennifer is recognized for developing high-performing teams, establishing scalable operating models, and leading transformation initiatives that improve organizational outcomes. Her leadership style combines strategic planning with disciplined execution, enabling teams to manage complexity, reduce risk, and achieve sustainable results.

Jennifer's commitment to innovation and lifelong learning is reflected in her dual doctoral training, which allows her to bridge the gap between research and real-world application. She continues to use evidence-based approaches to help organizations adapt to evolving healthcare demands, emerging technologies, and changing policy environments.

Jennifer attributes her success to three foundational pillars: faith, patriotism, and family. She believes these values have provided the strength, perspective, and motivation necessary throughout her personal and professional journey. These principles continue to guide how she approaches leadership, service, and the responsibilities entrusted to her.

One of the most influential pieces of career advice Jennifer has received is: "Try fast, fail fast, and try again." She believes meaningful growth comes from taking risks, learning through experience, and developing the resilience to move forward after setbacks.

Rather than viewing failure as a limitation, Jennifer sees it as an opportunity to reflect, adapt, and improve. This mindset has allowed her to embrace challenges, take calculated risks, and pursue opportunities that have expanded her leadership capabilities.

For young women entering leadership, healthcare, or government fields, Jennifer encourages confidence, courage, and persistence. Looking back at her own career journey, she would encourage her younger self to recognize that gender should never limit ambition or potential.

Jennifer believes women should pursue opportunities with determination while remaining open to mentorship and guidance. She encourages emerging leaders to recognize that criticism and doubt from others are often simply obstacles to overcome. Her philosophy of "try fast, fail fast, and try again" reflects her belief that both achievements and challenges are essential parts of professional growth.

She also emphasizes that confidence must be supported by preparation. Success requires a clear strategy, dedication, and the willingness to put in the effort necessary to turn goals into accomplishments.

Throughout her career, Jennifer has also identified collaboration as one of the most important opportunities for organizational success. She believes one of the greatest challenges in leadership environments is overcoming ego and creating cultures where individuals feel comfortable sharing their expertise and working together toward common goals.

Jennifer has seen how insecurity or competition can sometimes prevent collaboration, but she believes organizations are strongest when people recognize and leverage each other's strengths. Building effective teams requires openness, trust, and a shared commitment to a larger mission.

Drawing from her military experiences, Jennifer has also witnessed the challenges women have faced in leadership advancement. She has observed situations where equally qualified women were overlooked for opportunities, reinforcing her belief that continued progress is needed to ensure leadership decisions are based on ability, experience, and performance.

The values that guide Jennifer in both her professional and personal life are authenticity, transparency, integrity, and accountability. She believes effective leaders must remain true to themselves while creating environments where others feel supported and empowered.

During her time as a commander, Jennifer prioritized transparency and open communication. The phrase "transparency is key" became deeply meaningful to her because it represented her commitment to building trust and ensuring teams understood expectations, decisions, and responsibilities.

For Jennifer, integrity is the foundation of strong leadership. She believes leaders must be able to trust those around them and encourage honest conversations that include both successes and areas for improvement. Accountability, in her view, means taking ownership while also ensuring individuals have the resources, guidance, and support needed to succeed.

Ultimately, Jennifer believes leadership is about empowering others, fostering trust, and creating opportunities for people to contribute their best work. Through her continued service in healthcare and federal operations, Dr. Jennifer Garrison remains committed to workforce transformation, advancing innovation, culture transformation, strengthening organizations, and building a future where teams and individuals are equipped to achieve meaningful impact and be happy to come to work.

Learn More about Dr. Jennifer Garrison:

Through her Influential Women profile, https://influentialwomen.com/connect/Jennifer-Garrison

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