

RETAIL

## Saks appoints DEI vice president

July 19, 2022



*Dr. Alicia Williams has nearly two decades of experience in diversity leadership. Image credit: LinkedIn*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Luxury ecommerce platform Saks has appointed Dr. Alicia Williams as vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as it takes a step toward strengthening its commitments to social responsibility.

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Dr. Williams joins Saks with more than 15 years of experience as a global talent and diversity leader at Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan and various academic institutions. In her new role with Saks, she will be responsible for furthering the retailer's DEI commitments across the company while shaping its strategy moving forward.

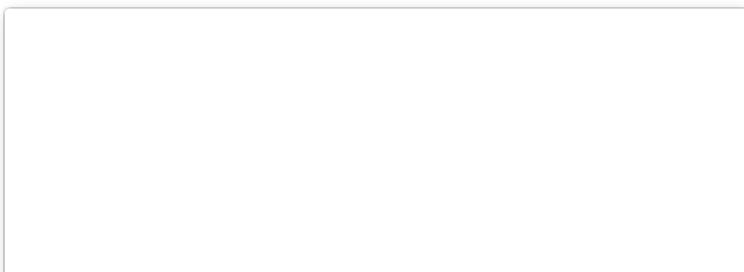
"Delivering on our DEI commitments and ensuring an inclusive culture are priorities for our leadership team and our entire company, as they are the key to being a great place to work and best serving our diverse customers and partners," said Sarah Garber, chief people officer at Saks, in a statement.

"Alicia has an exceptional track record in launching and implementing DEI initiatives, and we look forward to benefiting from her deep expertise as we build on the progress we have made to date and strengthen our efforts across our business."

### New leadership

Dr. Williams previously served as executive director, head of diversity and inclusion for U.S. banks at Morgan Stanley, where she led the DEI strategy, talent management and impact on the business.

Prior to this, she was vice president and diversity lead and the head of the North American Analyst and Associate campus recruiting program for JP Morgan's investment banking, wholesale payments and global corporate banking businesses.



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A post shared by Saks Fifth Avenue (@saks)

She has also held human resources and DEI leadership roles at universities across the country, including New York University, Cornell University and Harvard University. She holds degrees from Howard University and Towson University and received her Ed.D. in organizational change and leadership from the University of Southern California.

In her new role, Dr. Williams will become part of Saks' environmental social and corporate governance (ESG) team, led by Cara Chacon, who joined Saks as senior vice president of ESG in April after more than a decade in senior ESG roles at Patagonia.

Dr. Williams will also work closely with Saks' DEI council, inclusion advocates and ERGs.

"I'm thrilled to be joining an organization with a longstanding commitment to supporting the growth of every team member, using its platform to drive forward change and providing a best-in-class experience for its employees and customers," Dr. Williams said in a statement.

In May, Saks Fifth Avenue continued its partnership with the Stonewall Inn Gives Back Initiative as part of its annual Pride campaign.

"Show Your Pride" spotlights notable figures in the LGBTQ+ community in honor of Pride Month this June. Saks also partnered with the Stonewall Inn Gives Back Initiative (SIGBI) for the fourth consecutive year and supported the LGBTQ+ community with a donation of \$245,000 ([see story](#)).

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