

Dr. Marlene Battle ('97) has joined the Arkansas Pharmacists Association in the newly created role of Health Equity Coordinator. Battle's role was created in an effort to provide a meaningful impact in health disparities and social determinants of health across Arkansas. As Health Equity Coordinator, she will help direct programs to benefit Arkansas's most underserved and vulnerable populations and will work in tandem with the Arkansas Department of Health Equity to further the state's goals and objectives.

Dr. Battle earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway and a Master of Science in Biology from Texas A&M University-Commerce. She attended the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy where she earned a Doctor of Pharmacy. During her career as a pharmacist, Dr. Battle has gained experience in hospital, specialty, and retail pharmacy, including leadership positions with Walgreens and Fred's Pharmacies. Before joining the APA, she was the Pharmacy Manager for D&D Pharmacy, LLC located within the Arkansas Diagnostic Center and has been on the forefront of administering COVID-19 vaccines within the community as well as educating the public about the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Dr. Battle remains active in the community and with professional organizations, serving as the Pharmacy Representative for the Arkansas Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association and a member of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In 2019, Gov. Asa Hutchinson appointed her to serve a seven-year term on the ASMSA Board of Visitors for the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences, and the Arts, of which she is an alum.

A native of Eudora, Arkansas, she is married to Hayward Battle Jr. The couple are the parents of six children (two boys and four girls) and currently make their home in Benton, Ark.