

Joanne Williams

Joanne Williams is the Chief People Officer at Saavi Services for the Blind, where she leads organizational development, staff training systems, and human resources strategy. With 14 years of leadership experience, Joanne has played a key role in transforming Saavi into a nationally recognized employer known for its strong culture, comprehensive training programs, and commitment to professional excellence. She has developed and led large-scale initiatives that strengthen workforce capability, including robust onboarding frameworks, immersion-training models, and staff-development systems that have significantly expanded organizational capacity. Under her leadership, Saavi has increased staff certifications by more than 80% and built a talent pipeline that positions the organization nationally as an employer of choice within its field. In addition to guiding HR strategy, Joanne contributes nationally through her work on the National Blindness Professional Certification Board's Education Committee, where she helps design professional-development training for practitioners across the United States. Joanne's leadership is rooted in an empowerment-driven philosophy and the belief that people thrive when they have the right tools, support, and opportunities to succeed. She is committed to building workplaces where growth is expected, development is continuous, and employees are equipped to perform at their highest potential.

Tarik Williams

Tarik Williams is the Training and Recruitment Manager at Saavi Services for the Blind, where he leads student recruitment and staff training initiatives that support workforce development and organizational growth. With eight years of professional experience, Tarik brings a strong focus on talent development, accessibility, and employee empowerment.

He has played a key role in building recruitment pipelines and delivering training programs that strengthen staff performance and support high-quality service delivery. His work centers on creating opportunities for individuals to build skills, gain confidence, and succeed in both training and employment settings.

In addition to his role at Saavi, Tarik is the founder and CEO of We Are Vision of Hope, a coaching and development organization focused on mindset, personal growth, and strengths-based leadership. He is also the host of the *Speak Your Vision* podcast, where he explores topics related to empowerment, leadership, and personal development.

Tarik contributes to professional and community initiatives through service on boards and advisory councils that promote access, mobility, and inclusion. He holds a Master's degree in Counseling and Guidance from Louisiana Tech University with certifications in Orientation and Mobility and Rehabilitation Teaching, and is committed to helping individuals reach their full potential.