



Dr. Pernessa C. Seele
Founder & President
The Lincolnville Preservation and Historical
Society, Inc.

Dr. Pernessa Seele is a native of the settlement town, Lincolnville, SC. She spent her young years in a thriving, close-knit community that gave her the foundation she would need to become the Founder and CEO of The Balm In Gilead, Inc., a not-for-profit organization celebrating over 35 years of providing technical support that strengthens faith communities in the USA and Africa to promote health education and services that contribute to the elimination of health disparities.

Dr. Seele is well-known for her extraordinary vision and ability to create national and global partnerships in support of service to people. It is that very same service to people and passion for community and legacy that led her to establish the Lincolnville Preservation and Historical Society. Historic Lincolnville is a town located in Charleston County that is home to rich histories of pre-Civil War, Reconstruction and the Civil Rights eras- yet its stories are untold. As a landowner and daughter of Lincolnville, Dr. Seele is committed to telling the undocumented stories and revitalizing the town, which was once home to many successful freed men and women during the 19th and 20th Centuries.

As the recipient of **numerous citations and honors**, Dr. Seele was featured on the cover of **TIME magazine** in 2006 as *One of the Most Influential Persons In the World*. **Ebony Magazine** selected Dr. Seele as one of their **Power 150**; **Essence Magazine** has honored her with numerous features. In its 35th Anniversary issue, she was named one of the **35 Most Beautiful and Remarkable Women In The World**; In May 2010, Dr. Seele was selected as **21 Leaders of the 21st Century of Women E-News** in New York City. In April 2008, Clark Atlanta University honored Dr. Seele with the **Pathway of Excellence Award**, citing her as one of its most outstanding graduates of all time. In October 2017, His Eminence, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, bestowed the **Pierre Toussaint Medallion** upon Dr. Seele.

In this time when settlement communities across South Carolina are in danger of erasure, Dr. Seele is organizing a coalition of support to build capacity for the historic preservation and economic development of Lincolnville. To date, her efforts have gained Historic Lincolnville a place in the Reconstruction Era National Historic Network and the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.