

Denise Young recently closed a two-decade career with Apple and has since been serving in residencies and advising in academia; at Cornell Tech (Cornell Ithaca's graduate school tech campus in Manhattan), at Colorado College, and at various Historically Black Colleges and Universities. A key Cultural Influencer, she advises and teaches on the imperative of true diversity, representation, inclusion, and humanity in technology, Denise held a variety of executive roles at Apple, including leading the design of the talent and cultural experience for the company's retail store initiative, taking the chain to over 400 stores globally before being promoted to the Chief HR role, reporting to Apple's CEO, Tim Cook. She also served as Apple's first ever Vice President of Inclusion and Diversity, leading the company's efforts to see its full ecosystem become as inclusive as possible.

Denise has been named a "Most Powerful Woman" by Ebony Magazine and Black Enterprise, has been named one of "100 Most Influential in Silicon Valley" by Business Insider, and has been featured in Fortune's "Most Powerful Women" issue. She currently serves on a public company board, a private company retailer, and non-profit arts board. She has served as an advisor for The Howard Schultz family Foundation, as well as The Doug Williams Center for Race and Politics in Sports.

Truly living at the intersection of technology, humanity and art, Denise last year was named Chair of the Board of SFJAZZ, the premiere arts organization featuring Jazz and Black American music, artists, and educational programming. Additionally, Denise is a classically trained soprano who has graced local and international recital halls including Carnegie's Weill Hall, Palace of Fine Arts, and SFJazz. She recently released a debut album under her own Blue Organza Productions, and continues to tell the stories that need to be told.