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Ruth Williams-Brinkley is President of Kaiser Permanente Health Plan and Hospitals of the Northwest. In this role, she directs Kaiser Permanente's Oregon and Southwest Washington Region, providing high quality, customer focused, affordable care and coverage for the region's 615,000 members, and operating the region's hospitals and large network of geographically dispersed medical offices, in home, diagnostic, virtual and other continuum services.

Williams-Brinkley has over 35 years of executive leadership and consulting experience in health care. Prior to joining Kaiser Permanente, she served as Senior Vice President of Operations for Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), and CEO of KentuckyOne Health, the state of Kentucky's largest integrated health delivery system. She was the system's first president and CEO and established and integrated all aspects of system governance, executive leadership, physician integration, strategy, operations, and an ACO consistently rated as one of the top in the country. She was a member of CHI's President's (Executive) Council. Previous roles include market executive positions at CHI and Ascension Health and executive consultant at APM management consultants.

Williams-Brinkley is an active and engaged community leader and has served on numerous corporate, not for profit, national, state, and local government boards and work groups. She is currently on the boards of DePaul University, the Clinical Center Research Hospital Board of the National Institutes of Health, State of Oregon Governor's Medicaid Funding Work Group, and the Oregon Business Council. She previously served on the boards of Diatherix, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Chattem, and the Women Business Leaders of the US Health Care Industry (WBL).

Often cited for her contributions to the industry, in 2014, she was named one of the 10 most admired CEOs in health care. She has been frequently recognized as one of the Top 25 Women and one of the Top 25 minorities in health care, and in 2016, she was awarded an honorary doctoral degree from Spaulding University in Louisville, Kentucky.

Williams-Brinkley holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from De Paul University. She is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, and a member of the National Association of Health Services Executives.