



Denise Raquel Dunning, PhD, MPA, MA
Founder and Executive Director, Rise Up

Dr. Denise Raquel Dunning is the Founder and Executive Director of Rise Up, which advances health, education, and equity globally. Since the organization's founding in 2009, Rise Up's global network of 500+ leaders has improved health, education, and rights for 7 million girls, youth, and women, and advocated for over 100 laws and policies impacting 115 million people.

Dr. Dunning teaches in the UCSF's Masters of Global Health program, and is a Board Member of the Public Health Institute and EngenderHealth. She previously worked for the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, and served as a Fulbright Scholar with the Inter-American Development Bank in Honduras.

Dr. Dunning has a PhD in Sociology from the UC Berkeley, a Master's in Public Affairs from Princeton University, and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Duke University. She has lived in Guatemala, Honduras, India, and South Africa, and speaks four languages. Dr. Dunning's recent awards include selection by the Gates Institute's 120 Under Forty Global Leaders and winner of the Powerful Women of the Bay Area Award.