Mary Anne Alabanza Akers is Dean and Professor of the School of Architecture and Planning at Morgan State University. She received a Ph.D. in Social Science-Urban Planning from Michigan State University In 1991. Dr. Akers' research focuses on the impact of the built environment on health and well-being, student learning, and people's experiences. She has over 50 publications including peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, and research/professional reports and has recently published the book "Street Environments and Urban Health in the Philippines: A retrospective on Vendors and Their Spaces" by Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group. She served on the board for the Environmental Design Research Association from 2005 to 2008 and has been a reviewer for The Landscape Journal, Environment and Behavior Journal, Cities Journal, and International Journal of Interior Design. In the past three years, Dr. Akers has managed over \$1 million of grant funding for research and curricular activities and has recently established a new program (Ph.D. in Architecture, Urbanism, and Built Environments).