Sylvia Burwell

Sylvia Burwell is a Senior Professorial Lecturer and was the 15th President of American University. She serves on the Boards of Kimberly Clark, Guidewell Florida Blue, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Harvard Board of Overseers. She previously served in two confirmed Cabinet positions as the 22nd Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Before OMB, she served as President of the Walmart Foundation and led Walmart's Women's Economic Empowerment effort. She led the creation of and was President of the Global Development Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and was the Foundation's first Chief Operating Officer. She served as Deputy Director of OMB, Deputy Chief of Staff to the President, Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Treasury, and Staff Director of the National Economic Council. She received an AB from Harvard University and a BA from Oxford University, where she was a Rhodes Scholar. Burwell hails from Hinton, West Virginia and she and her husband Stephen live in Washington, DC with their two teenage children.