Sharon Walker is an engineer, scholar, and higher-education leader with a career grounded in research, leadership, and a strong commitment to public impact. She is currently a Distinguished University Professor of Environmental Engineering and Dean Emerita at Drexel University.

At the heart of Sharon's work is a passion for developing people and helping academic leaders thrive. Since 2021, she has served as Executive Director of ELATES (Executive Leadership for Academics in Technology, Engineering, and Sciences), a nationally recognized leadership program for senior faculty. She has also led three NSF ADVANCE grants focused on professional development, pay equity, and policy justice, and founded K-Line Executive Coaching and Consulting, where she partners with academic and education leaders navigating complexity, change, and growth.

Sharon most recently served as Dean of the College of Engineering at Drexel University. Earlier in her career, she was a faculty member at the University of California, Riverside, where she also served as Interim Dean of the Bourns College of Engineering.

As a researcher, Sharon is internationally recognized for her work in environmental engineering, with a focus on how pathogens and nanomaterials behave in natural and engineered systems. She has published extensively, is widely cited, and has been named among the Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% of Scientists Worldwide.

Sharon is also deeply engaged in national leadership across engineering and higher education. She has served as Chair of the Engineering Deans Council, on the Board of Directors of ASEE, on the Board of the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors, and on numerous academic and research advisory boards.