From 2003 to 2006, Willette Burnham served the College of Charleston as Associate Vice President of Student Affairs. Areas she oversees include Student Leadership & Multicultural Training & Education; Student Life; Intercultural Programs; Upward Bound; and GEAR UP, a program to accelerate the academic achievement of economically disadvantaged 7th and 8th graders, assisting them in acquiring a college education.

Mrs. Burnham had been Director of Minority Programs since 1996, and added responsibilities as Principal Investigator and Director of the GEAR UP Grant in 2000.

In 1998, Mrs. Burnham was nominated and selected for the National Forum for Women Leaders by the American Council on Education Office of Women in Higher Education.