



iowa commission on the status of women

Women You Know, Women You Want To Meet ICSW Monthly Website Feature

Lekeisha Veasley Feature Questionnaire

Job description and community involvement:

I have been employed with Operation Threshold Community Action Agency in Waterloo, Iowa for approximately five years as their Housing and Fair Lending Program Manager. I developed and currently administer the P.R.O.U.D. Homeownership Program. The program provides anti-predatory lending education, financial education, and homeownership education through classes and counseling. The P.R.O.U.D. Homeownership Program is one of two state-wide foreclosure prevention counseling agencies in Iowa. I am currently the board president for Iowa Home Ownership Education Project (IHOEP) in Johnston, IA. I am also a board member of the Highway 63 Community Development Corporation. I am the chair for the Financial Education Coalition and a member of the Coalition Against Abusive Lending. I am the tax site coordinator for two Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites that provide services in Black Hawk, Buchanan, and Grundy Counties.

Background:

I am a native of Waterloo, IA and I received my Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science and International Relations from Wartburg College. I obtained a Masters of Arts in Public Policy from the University of Northern Iowa. I also possess a Professional Certificate in Community Lending and Homeownership from the NeighborWorks Training Institute in Washington DC. I am a NeighborWorks certified Homeownership Education Instructor and Foreclosure Prevention Counselor. Lastly, I have a Professional Certificate in Housing Development Finance from the National Development Council based in New York, NY.

What's new on my horizon:

I plan to attend law school in the near future. It has always been a dream of mine to become an attorney. Since I was 9 yrs old and realized I can be paid to talk and "argue", I realized that was my dream job! (Smile)

Why I do what I do:

I love making a difference in people's lives. I trust that God has given me the gifts and talents to make someone else's life better and in turn my life will be enhanced also. Each time that I make a difference in someone's life, I feel like I am leaving my fingerprints on the world. I believe that we began to walk into our destiny when we learn to serve humanity, and only by God's grace can we learn to do so.

What I most wish would change for women:

As young girls we are exposed to “what an ideal” women should look like, which in turn has a detrimental effect on our psyche and self-esteem. I wish that I could change the sexual exploitation of women. “Sex Sells” has become equated with exploiting women, their bodies, and their minds. More than anything I wish that women would not define themselves nor determine their worth by how they look, what they wear; or whether a man physically desires them. I pray that many women would realize they possess **Greatness** inside of them despite what they physically look like, what clothes they wear; or who their family may or may not be.

“I wish I’d said that!” -please provide a brief quote that is meaningful to you:

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

--Marianne Williamson

This is what drives me and keep me focus when I began to feel overwhelmed, unsure of myself; and frustrated. Causing change in anyway, whether individually or collectively; is reciprocal. You have to give and receive when you engage in change. I realize what I do is not for the faint at heart, but it is part of my purpose. Walking within my God-given purpose liberates...I am manifesting the Glory of God.

The woman I admire most:

It has always been Maya Angelou, but Michelle Obama is giving her a run for her money! I think these two women personify the meaning of Phenomenal. They are poised and reserved, yet possess a powerful presence. Their wisdom and intellect radiates through their eyes and it causes people to draw near. Their lives embody the old African Proverb “Speak softly and carry a big stick, and you will go far.”

Contact information (optional):

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