

Miss Black Oregon Contestants

INSPIRED BY THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Newly crowned, Tiffiney Martin, Miss Black Oregon USA 1997 takes time to pose for photographer.

"Leadership is a function and not just a title."

Our mission is to provide opportunities for young women to excel in leadership, community service and education through the MBOUSA Scholarship Pageant program while awarding scholarship opportunities to further advanced education.

The Miss Black Oregon USA Pageant has introduced a LEADERSHIP THROUGH SELF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, the first of its kind to be incorporated into a scholarship Pageant. "Although the young ladies bring a lot of talent and intellect to the pageant many additional aspects of the contestants must be enhanced and developed in order to be a proper representative of MBOUSA," says Pageant Director, Wanda Washington. The areas of Leadership and Community Service. Leadership is a function and not just a title. Since MBOUSA must be a leader to her peers, family and community the ladies must receive some leadership skills training. Therefore, the Leadership Through Self Management Program was introduced. The components of the program in-



Wanda Washington, Director

cludes: Self-esteem - The Blueprint of Your Future, Becoming A Self Disciplined Achiever, Leadership Skills for the 21st Century, and Becoming A Role Model On the Path To Making History.

Ms. Hudson of Empowerment Through Self Management in New York City was contracted to facilitate this program. She instructed the young ladies everyday for a week in the leadership skills training. The challenges and responsibilities the contestants met in order to participate in the Scholarship Pageant spoke to their commitment to making a difference, says Ms. Hudson. "Ms.

Washington through her insight and introduction of the Leadership Through Self Management Program, has established a foundation for bolstering that committed attitude into a lifelong pursuit of excellence and achievement."

The contestants were polled immediately following the leadership program to gain insight on their opinion of the workshops importance to their self development. The results were highly positive. A 100% of the contestants were encouraged by the workshops and felt it to be an important aspects of the MBOUSA Program. A 100% wanted the workshops to continue for future development and training. All of the contestants were encouraged by Mzuri Hudson's professionalism and manner in which the material was presented and requested her return for the next pageant program. The pageant will continue to developed the MBOUSA Program to reach a broader audience of young women.

Anyone interested in becoming a contestant for the MBOUSA Pageant in the future should submit a letter of interest with contact information to, MBOUSA, PO BOX 6954, Portland, OR 97228.

A Tribute To A Great Lady Among Young Women

BY KEVIN FULLER AND RHONDA CARR
The measure of a woman is determined not by how did she die

to help introduce the Miss Black Oregon Scholarship Program to the community.



Joyce Washington

but how she lived? Not by what did she gain - but what did she give?

Joyce Washington - A woman who epitomized the principles of Nguzo Saba and lived her life as a perfect example of how others should contribute - gave, unselfishly, of her time; abundantly, of her resources, and gave them all, sincerely, from her heart.

Ask her weakened mother, whom she never abandoned. Ask her aunt who suffered a stroke. Ask her children, whom she never gave up on. Or ask her 29 grandchildren who are truly our future.

The measure of a woman is determined not by what was her station? But had she a heart and how did she play her God - Given part?

Joyce Was unselfish in her love and active in many community organizations including the NAACP, Urban League of Portland, and West Coast Black Publishers Association. But she did more than pay financial dues; she also paid emotionally and empowered others.

Ask the senior citizens who received meals on wheels. Ask the students from King Elementary school who could exchange good grades for goodies. Or ask faithful readers who look forward to the Portland Observer keeping them abreast of the happenings in our community.

The measure of a woman is determined not by what was her church, nor what was her creed? But had she befriended those really in need?

Everyone needs to feel special. Joyce recognized, early, the lack of attention of our African American Princesses received and pushed hard

Just ask all young women whose lives have been enhanced by the training, appearances, and scholarships this program offers. Ask Michelle Soles, Donna Knight, and Valerie Doakes - Former representatives to the Miss Black Oregon USA Pageant. Ask her children who are committed to continue to sponsor and support the Miss Black Oregon USA Pageant in a special way.

Joyce was a fighter. The community was her ring. Hopelessness, discrimination and apathy were her opponents. But she put on two gloves...one called faith and the other called determination. And with the combination of strength and will, Joyce fought tirelessly to make the world a better place. Yes, the cruel world fought back and sometimes knocked her down - It took her youngest son Cory; It brought illness to the family; It made her tired; but no contender ever knocked Joyce out. Each time she was knocked down, she got right back up and finished the fight. She may have lost a few rounds, but Joyce always won the match.

Today - thought resting with her son, Cory and brother, Larry Hackman, safely in the arms of the Lord - Joyce is still fighting. She is fighting through all of us who stood protected in her corner. Leading that fight are her children: Charles, with the strength to protect the oppressed; Tony with the eyes to see a better tomorrow; Gary, with a smile that says everything will be all right. Mark, with the courage to challenge an unfair system; Ronnie, with the love to conquer hate; and Audrey, with beauty - internal and external that is so symbolic of our people.



Miss Black Oregon USA Contestants pose for group photo after an exciting competition at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. (Donna Knight, Miss Black Oregon USA 1995, Tiffiney Martin, newly crowned Miss Black Oregon USA 1997, Jessherie Turner, Ulanda Simms, Latia Harper-fourth runner-up, Catrina Barr, Cassandra Nolen-second runner-up and community service award winner, Elizabeth Joseph-first runner-up and inspirational award winner, Jamicia Jackson, and Rachell Hall-third runner-up and inspirational award winner.)

Donna Knight, Miss Black Oregon USA 1995: I thank God for blessing me with the opportunity to represent the State of Oregon. During the past year, I have learned responsibility and to inspire our youth that what they believe they can achieve. Women are God's special gift to earth. AS the bible says, "Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies."

To all young women I urge you to stand tall and never let anyone devalue your worth. A special thanks goes onto Wanda Washington of the Miss Black Oregon USA Pageant for recognizing the talents and beauty of women of color also recognizing the importance of education.

Sincerely,
Donna Marie Knight



A Few Good Men (right) live up to their name. On Saturday, August 17, 1996 singing sensation A FEW GOOD MEN answers the question "Just who are a FEW GOOD MEN?" These four talented brothers from Atlanta, Georgia dazzled the Miss Black Oregon USA Pageant crowd in a dynamic performance that left the audience asking for more....many audience attendees made comments such as, "I am in love with A FEW GOOD MEN." The fellas performed several selections from their hit CD "Take a dip". One of the all time favorite performances included a serenade to the contestants in which A FEW GOOD MEN swooned the contestants off their feet singing, "Have I Never." Immediately following the pageant, A FEW GOOD MEN signed autographs and mingled with the audience at the winner's reception.



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Thank you for your Support!

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Mary C. Harrison; Gregory & Kim Smith; 360 Degrees; Barbara Leonard; Rica Brooks; Debora Lepold; Ron Jenkins; Lori Connorton; Cynthia Dehman; Wayne Purrett; Tasa Lehma

Latia Harper
Sibyl Hayes (Mom); Lloyd Athletic Club; Oregon Athletic Club; Marriott Residence Inn; Mildred Hill; Elaine & Dad; Housing our Families. R.D. Stever

Tiffiney Martin

Emily Martin (Mom); Ralph Gillespie; David Brody; Joy Chicaire; Lawrence Holtz; Teresa Phillis; Dan Bleu; Dominique Boswell; Surilla Simmons; Herbert Hagert; Mary Harvey; Shala Moayyadae; Terence Sprague; Chaz Hoff; Jeff Dardem; Mike Pullen; Carol Roberts

Miss Black Oregon Contributors
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Muzuri Hudson Who Is She???

When you ask Mzuri Hudson who she is, she quickly responds: "It is not WHO I AM that is important but WHAT is my way of living? WHAT do I stand for? DO I walk my talk? DOES my life reflect what I am telling you? Is my INTENTION one of integrity and of GOD? Do I understand that I AM THAT I AM?"



Mzuri Hudson carries this message to many different arenas. Through her organization, Empowerment Through Self Management as a Personal AUDACITY Coach and Conflict Relations Specialists, she conducts Relationship Workshops for single people and married couples. She is a certified community, parent/adolescent and divorce mediator by and for the Brooklyn Mediation Center, the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, The Children's Aid Society, and the New York Mediation Group. Ms. Hudson is also Adjunct Professor at Long Island University adults in youth residential facilities, community centers and other non-profit organizations teaching Adult-T-Adolescent Communication Skills. She has worked throughout the New York City school system implementing peer mediation programs and teaching life/leadership skills. Ms. Hudson also conducts Parent Empowerment Trainings which include parenting strategies she has learned as a single parent raising her son Sean, now 27 years old.

Included in her endeavors and commitment to teaching others to approach conflicts in a positive way, Ms. Hudson has also been a facilitator in the court-mandated Alternatives to Violence Program conducted by VSA for male batterers. As an accomplished martial artist and personal safety self-defense

instructor, Ms. Hudson lectures and teaches men, women and children (including the disabled and hearing impaired) the art of crime prevention and effective life saving skills. Ms. Hudson has also studied internal healing Kung Fu in China and teaches various forms of internal healing Chi Kung.

Mzuri Hudson is fast becoming a renowned speaker of choice for women addressing issues that cause conflict. Be it personal conflict, woman-to-woman conflict, male-female conflicts or as a parent addressing challenges of child rearing in turbulent times.

She empowers, motivates and educates with her dynamic keynote addresses and workshops on topics that include: Elegance Under Pressure. Mental, Physical and Spiritual Self Defense; He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not, Becoming The Gentle Warrior, Preventing Relationship Violence, and Who Has The Power - Developing the AUDACITY To be Self Defined (with her book forthcoming entitled the same.)

No matter who the audience, the objective is the same. Mzuri speaks to the hearts of those around her, sharing strategies the techniques for living a life of joy, peace, self-determination and GODLINESS. Ashay.Amen!

Contact Ms. Hudson at (212) 769-7653 for keynotes and workshop facilitation.