



Portland native makes splash in beauty industry with environmentally friendly, cruelty free, nail polish.

Portland native Kalauna Carter is making a splash in the beauty industry with her environmentally friendly, cruelty-free line of nail polish, the first of its kind operated by a woman of color.

Bringing Science to Business

Portland native makes splash in beauty industry

BY DANNY PETERSON
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland native Kalauna Carter is making waves in cosmetics by helping an environmentally, cruelty free, nail polish business called Kolors by K that has already garnered some high profile customers.

As an African American woman, Carter was motivated by the lack of representation of women in the beauty industry.

“We see the products, we see the models, but how many of them are truly wearing products made by women of color? Not

many,” she said.

Now Based in Tallahassee, Fla., Carter attained a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science, concentrating in plant and soil science from Tuskegee University. In May, she graduated with a Master’s degree in Environmental Management from the same historically black college.

Carter took her love of nail polish and knowledge of chemical components to entrepreneurial ends when she discovered how dangerous the chemicals in many mainstream commercial beauty

products were.

“If I can figure this out without all these chemicals, I could be on to something,” she recalled saying to herself at the time.

With the advice of a cousin, Teresa Scott, she went to work and that’s when Kolors by K was born, launching in summer of 2016.

Now, she sells her nail polish online at kolorsbyk.com, as well as to retail stores in growing numbers.

Carter’s products boast numerous certifications, including being “10-free,” which

means it is free of a plethora of non-environmentally friendly chemical compounds that have often been linked to cancers in women ranging from ovarian to breast: camphor, toluene, formaldehyde, fluoride resins, xylene, ethyl tosylamide, parabens, phthalates and fragrances are among them.

The polishes are also FDA approved, vegan, and internationally certified as not tested on animals. Carter is the first woman

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