



Rites - of - Passage Mentoring Program



Samantha Thompson is a mentor and inspirational leader of youth. She also manages the mentoring program for youth ages 14-18. She is author and creator of the Esteem Teens Rites-of-Passage Mentoring program which teaches the principles about becoming responsible adults while providing the guidance and wisdom of adult mentors.

The Esteem Teens program is a spin-off of the Kisura Teen Mentoring Program, sponsored by The Saint Paul's Baptist Church. The original program has been in existence since August 2000. It has prepared more than 200 youth since its inception.

Samantha Thompson is based in Richmond, VA and is a Project Manager for Federal Reserve Information Technology. She has been with the Federal Reserve since January 2007. Prior to the Fed, Samantha worked for Capital One Financial Corporation, where she also served the community.

Samantha has served in several capacities as a program director, youth leader, facilitator and mentor of The Saint Paul's Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia. At the request of her Pastor, Rev. Dr. Lance D. Watson, she developed Kisura (Swahili for gorgeously beautiful young lady) Teen Mentoring program. The program spawned the creation of the brother organization aptly named, Lions of Judah. Both programs currently use the same curriculum and share the same goals and vision.

Samantha is passionate about helping the youth because of her upbringing. She was reared in the housing projects in Richmond, Virginia. There she was introduced to various sporting and social activities, ranging from Softball and Track and Field to pageants. Samantha's humble upbringing did not lack the love of her dear mother, Lena Garrison. Her mother provided for her family the best way she could and there was never a shortage of love from her.

Samantha eventually, made her way to Jefferson-Huguenot-Wythe High School, where she excelled academically. Through the efforts of her school counselor and physical education teacher, Samantha was able to apply for and receive scholarships to attend Hampton University. While at Hampton, she majored in Computer Information Systems. She eventually pledged the esteemed Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and became even more active in community service. After graduating from Hampton, Samantha sought to charter a new chapter of the Sorority in Eastern Henrico. Through her vision and leadership, Henrico County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated was chartered in 2001. She remains an active member in the sorority.