

Kyla Latrice

Platform: Empowering African-American Southern Women (primarily) to be (business) Leaders

Talent: Spoken Word (*in costume*)

School: Hamline University (2005, B.A.), University of Phoenix (2007, M.B.A.) and Capella University (Doctorate, currently taking credits in the certification of Management of Non-Profits)

Major: Women's Studies **Minors:** Psychology and Biology (Pre-medicine)

Kyla born in Marks, MS and raised partly in Mississippi, and partly in Minnesota. In addition, Kyla Latrice is the second born of two children, the oldest child, being her brother. In addition, Kyla Latrice as three half brothers and five half sisters whom are younger siblings of hers as well as five sisters that she calls her sisters, whom are best friends of hers! She is supported by many! Furthermore, Marks, MS is located in Quitman County; the Delta. Ms. Kyla is the child of Carol (mother) and Roy (father) Tennin and the grand-daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Virginia and Robert Crawford; along with being the great-grand-daughter of the late Mrs. Magdalena Burnett, in Mississippi.

As a child Kyla Latrice always knew she wanted to become a physician someday, dealing with women, delivering babies, and educating women on women's health issues. Therefore, Ms. Kyla started to pursue her Pre-Medicine high school requirements at Southwest High School along with Advanced Placement studies since she was doing well in her coursework (studying Physics, Accounting, Journalism (she soon feel in love with writing), Biology, Chemistry, and even Spanish (which she studied over the course of seven years)).

In addition, Ms. Kyla went on to pursue Pre-Medical studies at Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota to become an OB/GYN, while working in the financial industry after school, full time, at night (and studying, volunteering, and getting involved with on campus and off campus organization work: such as United Hospitals Birth Center, Genesis 2 for Women, and the First Steps Program (teenage mothers educational program) (one of the only five schools in Minnesota that offer Pre-Medical studies to elite students) along with coursework at Macalester University in Saint Paul, Minnesota (one of Hamline University sister schools), all while trying to keep up with pursuing a modeling career.

Wow! Here is the catch, Ms. Kyla had to quit searching for a success modeling career for a while and a few weeks before Hamline University 2004 graduation time at Hamline University, Ms. Kyla woke up one sunny day and thought to herself, before I "officially" receive a degree for this Women's Studies and Biology/Pre-Medicine major with a minor in Psychology; do I really want to go on to Medical school (working a full time job would not be allowed) to become a Physician while trying to take care of herself. Since Ms. Kyla was already working in the financial industry and fell in love with this (as well as been tired of seeing the female African-American modeling industry be lead in a direction in the South that Ms. Kyla wants to change: to display educated, classy, and driven ladies) and already had a love for women's studies (coursework in: communication, sociology, business administration, calculus (several courses), accounting, statistics, conflict studies, women in leadership (her favorite), internships, and even ethics).

So, therefore, Ms. Kyla decided to keep her majors, but withdraw from the rest of her Physician/Biology courses, stay at Hamline University an extra semester to take on business courses to learn more about business and graduate in January 2005, but walk at the May 2005 graduation ceremony; while starting her Master's in Business Administration in March 2005 to complete in 2007... to start her own organization's geared towards empowering women through pursuing education in general, high education, and business etiquette with an emphasis on the modeling/entertainment industry and journalism industry; i.e. writing for particular magazines on

women interviewed (as well as men though) about women's accomplishments. Furthermore, in her spare time, Kyla enjoys reading, writing, swimming, hanging out with family and friends (Sisterhood!!!) at cookouts to enjoy each others company and traveling!

In addition, Ms. Kyla has been an inspiration to individuals in her family, church, school, corporately, and even in particular non-profit volunteer work: for individuals to get involved in church, modeling, advanced their corporate careers through further training and higher education.

Furthermore, in April of 2007 Kyla decided to officially move from Minnesota to go home to Mississippi to take care of her grandparents, start two businesses related to women, a gospel newsletter, and publish a book, titled: Empowering Women (something to that effect) and to just be back home in Southern weather where she felt at "*peace*" again, without the demands of an living in a busy city. She could now rest in the countryside or travel to a large city (Nashville, TN, Houston, TX, Jackson, MS or Atlanta, GA) whenever she wanted a city feel; all while living in a mini-city in Mississippi.

Nevertheless, Ms. Kyla's sound plans that she has already start to put into action are her continued small part time modeling career, her gospel newsletter, working on someday finishing her women's book, and women's organizations/educating women as models/mothers/students, etc. And, in summary, her 2008 Miss Mahogany experience will assist her accomplishing these goals: to empower African-American women (of her age generation). With the pursuit of aiming to be Miss Mahogany 2008, you will have to stay tuned to see *how* these women will be empowered!

Achievements:

Member of Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (20 years of attendance/membership)

Certificate of License for Gospel Worker

Gospel Spoken Word Advocate at local churches

Who's Who American High School Students Awards (3)

Southwest High School Senior Homecoming Court, delegate

Hamline University Bachelor of Arts Degree in Women's Studies, Biology, & Psychology

University of Phoenix Master's Degree in Business Administration

State Finalist American Coed Pageant

Hamline University Triota-Honor Society Member

Hamline University Triota-Honor Society Treasurer

National Black MBA Association (NMBBAA) Member

United Nations Association (UNA) Member

Vice-President and Co-Founder of Southwest High School African-American culture club

Recently lost 55 pounds by eating healthy and staying active

Junior Varsity Cheerleading Coach and Team Member

Varsity Cheerleading Coach and Team Member

Accounting Student of the Month

HOSTS – Helping Other Students to Succeed Mentor

Campus Crusaders for Christ Ministries

A.C.T.S. – Acting in the Community Through Service

Urban League Scholar

Target Scholar

Regis Scholar

Wallin Scholar

Homelessness awareness program co-creator and mentor

Genesis 2 for Women

Harriet Tubman Center, Washington DC nurse

White House lobbyist for Health Care

Clark Atlanta University exchange trip creator, mentor, and studied immigration, racism, civil rights, and studying the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Clark Atlanta University, after school activities mentor

Howard University student exchange trip creator, mentor, and studied health care

Rust College, UC (University of California) Berkley and Xavier University student exchange trip creator and mentor

Miss Minnesota Pageant, State Finalist

Mary Kay Cosmetics Face Model (Kelly Banks Independent Beauty Consultant)

Miss Minnesota Pageant Finalist

Miss Lake Street (Minneapolis, MN) Finalist

Hamline University active member participant of organizations: PRIDE Black Student Alliance, Spectrum, Students against war, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., The Office of Service Learning and Volunteerism, and Students against drunk driving

Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Chapter Alumnae Delegate

A.C.E.S. – Athletes Committed to Educating Students

United Hospital First Steps Volunteer

Greater Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Women's Mission Ministry clothing and food drive participant

Advanced Placement Honor Student (Mathematics and Spanish)

Idealist for a new Women in Business/Entertainment Conference: Southern Entertainment (Music) Awards (participant and hostess since 2006 and new conference starts 2009)

Part-Time modeling appearances (Mary Kay Cosmetics, DV8 Magazine, various conference, fashion shows and The Half Radio Show in New York)

Founder of a new women mentoring/exposure entity to build and promote primarily African American Southern Women (between the ages of 21-31)