

Tempest T. Thornton

Platform: *“Specializing in women’s healthcare to improve the health and wealth of minority teen-age girls.”*

Tempest is currently a sophomore, attending Crichton College in Memphis, Tennessee. She received a “full-ride” scholarship (Crichton tuition, room and board, and books) for four years through Act Six, a leadership and scholarship initiative of the Memphis Leadership Foundation and Crichton College. On and off campus alike, Tempest serves as a Student Ambassador, helping to build bridges across the differences of cultural and economic backgrounds and respond creatively to the pressing challenges of the new generation. She’s also a member of Crichton’s Dance Star team. Tempest volunteers weekly at LeBonheur Children’s hospital in the Emergency department.

At Crichton, Tempest is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedicine. Most recently, she was selected to attend the 22nd Annual Symposium on Career Opportunities in Biomedical Sciences and Health Professions to compete in the scientific abstract poster presentation. She also was chosen to attend the 2008 Summer Medical and Dental Education Program at the University Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Tempest has plans to become a medical doctor specializing in women’s health. Many think of heart disease as something that affects men, but heart disease is in fact the biggest killer of women. Breast cancer awareness campaigns show how critical early detection is through regular physician visits and self-examination. Tempest’s ultimate career objective is to open a women’s clinic to address specifically the needs of minority teen-age girls in impoverished communities. Through partnership and collaboration with faith-based organizations, she hopes her clinic can provide emotional, spiritual, and even financial counseling for the young girls who would come to the clinic for health services. Tempest believes that a healthy body and mind are necessary to improve both the health and wealth of the impoverished minority population. The Miss Mahogany Scholarship Pageant Competition is such a viable and wonderful opportunity to help this dream become a reality through its scholarship assistance for educational advancement.

In Tempest’s spare time she enjoys singing and is often asked to sing at weddings and of course with the Sunday morning Praise and Worship Team at her church. Her other favorite hobby is “make-up.” She is a favorite customer of MAC products and has acquired a modest reputation on campus as the “make-up artist.”

Finally, Tempest says she realizes that she has purpose and destiny to fulfill in her life. As a survivor of a car accident that took the life of her father when she was eleven years old, she understands that she survived to live out the wonderful principles her father instilled within her to move upward, look for a positive future and always be a lady. His favorite words were ***“I Still Have Joy”*** a reminder that no matter how bleak the situation or tough the odds are against you, smile and still remain positive.