

2013 Torchbearer Recipient - Young Woman of Promise

Shanel Poole

The Young Woman of Promise Award is given to a young woman for her outstanding contributions to her community and leadership potential. Shanel Poole has exhibited those things and more, turning that 'potential' into actual leadership at a young age.

Shanel endured a difficult childhood that led to her being labeled a juvenile delinquent and living on her own by the age of 16. Despite her hardships, her determination for a better life gave her the strength to get back on her feet, earning her GED and enrolling full-time at Indiana State University. During her sophomore year in college Shanel established a program known as G.L.A.M. (Guidance, Life-Skills And Mentoring). G.L.A.M. is a program for at-risk girls from age 9-18.

Shanel graduated from Indiana State University in 2010 with degrees in Communications and Political Science and was the C-Span Valedictorian Commencement Speaker. After her graduation, she chose to follow her passion to help others by moving back to Indianapolis and growing the G.L.A.M. program. Her program prepares and empowers these young women to live independent and productive lives. The non-profit program provides workshops, seminars, hands-on-training and mentoring with a focus on improving communication skills. G.L.A.M. improves the lives of over 50 girls each year in local Indiana communities. Her programs effectiveness led Indianapolis Public Schools to hire her to work with their at-risk girls for the last three years.

Her efforts have also gone towards improving retention at Indiana State University. Shanel has worked with freshman at ISU and participates as a motivational speaker at various student events and organizational gatherings. Through her work with G.L.A.M., IPS and ISU she is using the lessons she has learned from overcoming her own adversities and improving the lives of young Hoosier women. Still in the early stages of her efforts, Shanel has future plans to become an attorney and continue to serve at-risk



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