

Professional Biography

Shaniqua Jones, a leader in her own right and a proven professional of high standards within the post-secondary arena. Among other responsibilities, she is the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education Coordinator and Staff Clerk for the School of Extended Learning and the Office of International Services at Governors State University (GSU).

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Shaniqua began her professional career in the non-profit sector on the south side of Chicago for several years. During this time, she was promoted from office assistant to executive assistant and recovery home operator over three male recovery homes. She formed lasting relationships with a variety of state agencies ranging from Cook County Drug Court, Chicago Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Human Services, and Illinois Department of Corrections.

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Shaniqua transitioned to entrepreneurship as the CEO of Senorita Entertainment providing a welcoming experience for comedians and patrons to partake in fellowship and laughter in the south suburban Cook County area. The platform allowed local comics to hone their skills while nationally recognized comedians returned to an intimate setting to perform. Shaniqua saw the need to be more creative in approach to promoting local talent by combining a vendor experience for small business owners.

As Shaniqua completed her undergraduate and graduate degree at Governor State University (GSU), she learned of the philosophy of Restorative Justice under the leadership of her mentor and professor. Restorative Justice became a way of life for her as she was able to apply theory to practice in her own personal affairs. Shaniqua was recognized as a student leader on campus by modeling the way and encouraging the heart. Even through facing hard times, Shaniqua managed to rise to the occasion. For her final project to complete her graduate degree, she co-created a 15-semester credit hour Restorative Justice Certificate Program. In 2013, Shaniqua graduated with her Master of Science in Criminal Justice as the Commencement Speaker which is one of the highest academic honors a student can achieve at GSU.

Her diverse background in academics and her profession as well as her personal journey has allowed her to understand the concerns of those she serve. As a current student, she has had the opportunity to serve the student body as a leader in addressing concerns, being visible and available, and supporting student-based programs on campus.

She is currently in the Interdisciplinary Leadership doctoral program due to graduate May 2016. She has become an active restorative and social justice advocate within higher education. Her passion for Restorative Justice has afforded her the opportunity to speak and present across the Chicagoland area on the proactive and reactive approaches regarding restorative practices such as, build meaningful relationships, promoting accountability, and operating in a safe environment.

She plans to start her own non-profit organization offering an outlet for youth to speak from the heart without judgment, however receiving support of their creative endeavors. She believes that we are support systems to one another and should exemplify social capital in terms of creating solutions and resolving issues internally. She also recognizes the importance of promoting sustainable consumption in higher education as a contribution to bridge the gap between service learning and subsidiary learning to maximize the academic experience for students as well as administration, faculty and staff.

Shaniqua understands that higher education plays a crucial role in the social development of young and returning adults to effectively face societal challenges, cultural diversity, and environmental issues – emphasizing civic engagement. With many colleges and universities moving towards a more civically engaged institution, the paradigm shift to focus on social justice and civic responsibility is becoming more prominent. To promote the social and economic development through service and incidental learning, WE must have the opportunity to be catalyst to enhance experiences through collaborative efforts. This quest is continued through Shaniqua’s academic, professional and personal gains.

Short Biography

Shaniqua Jones is an inspirational author, educator, and Restorative Justice Circle Keeper. She has co-authored two publications on entrepreneurship including *The Entrepreneur Within You and Success, Failure and Recovery*. When she’s not raising her five children and being a wife, she’s most likely writing or involved in activities relating to collaborative communities and education for young and adult learners. You can visit her at www.shaniquajones.com.

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