



L I F E S T Y L E
E D U C A T I O N
&
R E S O U R C E
S E R V I C E S

LERS Summer Women's TEA & TALK Saturday, July 13, 2019

This year LERS nominated five distinguished women who exemplify the embodiment of service and enhancement to their communities through education, giving of their time, talents, and gifts to those who would be blessed by their engagement. We just want to say thank you for your investment by being the hands and feet of a Greater Power, by sharing a sincere love for people and enhancing our community!



Pictured: Edelia "Dr. Jay" Carthan, Coretta Frazier, Cassie McDuffey, Carol Redfield-Mims, and Patrece Johnson

Edelia "Dr. Jay" Carthan



Edelia "Dr. Jay" Carthan has led a life of service. She has fought for civil rights, education, women's rights, race relations and more. Through her organization, "The Fabulous Life by Dr. Jay", she continues to make an impact on the lives of young women state-wide as a mentor and guide. Dr. Carthan has also served as a beacon for justice, willing to step up and fight for the rights of her fellow Mississippians.

Her journey has not been without trials. As a result of her pregnancy when she was in her teens, there was a point in her life when she thought that she would never be able to fulfill her dream of helping others. But with God's help, she overcame her adversities; and now her son, E.J., is a proud student of the historic Tougaloo College, where Dr. Carthan also works as Assistant Professor in the Division of Education, Supervision, and Instruction.

Dr. Carthan's career as a public servant didn't begin by happenstance. Her father was the first black mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, and he currently serves as a supervisor in Holmes County. So as she grew up, she was given special insight into what being an elected official truly means. She learned the mark of true leadership: An elected leader works for the people, and he or she is accountable to the people.

CORETTA FRAZIER



A southern girl with big dreams and a big heart! Coretta is a native of Edwards, MS and the CEO of Professional Management Solutions; a staffing and consulting agency that specializes in the recruitment and placement of both temporary and permanent staff; while also providing them with sustainable resources such as healthcare benefits. As the Human Resources Director, she manages day-to-day operations consisting of supervising and providing consultation to management on strategic planning, compensation, benefits, training, development, labor relations, and so much more. Prior to establishing herself as CEO, Coretta spent 6 years working in manufacturing at Nissan. Since then, Coretta has built an empire of networks and serves as an integral part of the workforce industry. Coretta is determined to make her mark on the world and be a force of change within her community.

Professional Preparation

Coretta has spoken at several industry forums and boardrooms on the functions of HR Management and Professionals. She has addressed the importance of compliance with federal, state, and local laws; effective training programs, talent management, interviewing, employee relations, and recruiting. Not only has Coretta earned a Bachelor of Business Degree, yet she has also obtained a Master of Business Degree; with a concentration in Human Resources from Belhaven University. In addition, she is an experienced professional in the areas of business analysis, brand management, vendor management, and partnership negotiations.

Family Life

Aside from her professional life; Coretta is married to her high school sweetheart of fourteen years. They have two beautiful children together; a seven-year-old son and a thirteen-year-old daughter. Coretta is a member of New Jerusalem Church. She serves as Secretary for the PTO board for Byram Middle School and she is Vice President of Byram Chamber of Commerce. She gracefully wears the title “troop mom” for her daughters Girl Scout Troop 5841, and she still show up to the playing field to lead her sons’ soccer team to victory. Coretta is certainly the epitome of what it means to be a “supermom.” She is founder of Innovative Workforce Development; a non-profit created to address the decreasing economic growth in communities. Her beliefs stand upon Proverbs 29:18; “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Although Coretta balances family and work life very well, she still lives by a quote she holds dear to heart; “The key is not to prioritize what’s on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities.”

Cassie Marquita McDuffey



Mrs. Cassie McDuffey is a native of Jackson, MS. She is a wife to one husband and a mother to three sons and one daughter. She received a bachelor's and master's degree in social work from "Thee" Jackson State University (JSU). During her tenure at JSU, Cassie has been inducted into various of honor societies and Who's Who among Students in American Universities & Colleges.

The Department of Veterans Affairs currently employs Cassie as a Program Support Assistant and she serves as a certified VA Core Mentor and a Veteran Safety Attendant. She is a member of the Jackson VA Toastmaster Club, the VA Federal Women Committee, alumni of the School at Work Program, the Emerging VA Leaders Program, and serves as the newly appointed Certified Mediator.

Cassie enjoys volunteering in her community and serves as a Sunday school teacher, public relations assistant and president of the youth department in her local church.

She is also a member of the praise team, the Daughters of Deborah Circle and SWAT (Soul Winning across Town) Outreach Ministry. In July 2017, Cassie was recognized internationally by being one of the recipients of the "20 under 40 COGIC Achiever Award."

Cassie desire to become a social worker transpired by the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse she experienced at a very young age. Being a survivor is what gives Cassie the courage to empower other to know that, "You are not what happened to you, but you are who God says you are." Therefore, no matter what life throws at Cassie, she stands firm on her favorite Bible scripture, Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ"

Carol Redfield-Mims



Mrs. Carol Redfield-Mims, Curriculum Specialist, Restorative Justice Practitioner is currently working in Yazoo City Public Schools. She was the former Uniserv Director of Mississippi Association of Educators (Capitol Region). Mrs. Redfield-Mims received her B.S. degree in Elementary Education and her M.S. in Reading from Jackson State University. She is currently working towards her Ph.D. in Education Organizational Leadership. She has been active in the area of equal educational rights for public school children for over 14 years and has been a frequent contributor to the policies developed around educational issues in our area. She shared a full year of lessons online through the National Education

Association (NEA) and Better Lesson initiative to help educators across the country promote student success. She believes that “The power of teachers’ expertise is necessary and teachers should be passionate about inspiring children’s natural curiosity, imagination, and desire to learn.” Carol has shared her passion, creativity, and knowledge with our nation’s classrooms. Now educators will be able to customize the shared lessons to their students’ individual needs and provide high-quality instruction for all students, regardless of their zip code. Her experience also includes programs and consultancies in Praxis Workshops and community organizing. Her current research involves teachers’ mindsets and the educational gap in rural/urban areas as it relates to student success.

Patrece D. Johnson Senior Sales Director



Patrece began her Mary Kay Career in August 1999. At that time she worked as a Premium Insurance Auditor/Underwriter & Licensed Insurance Agent for an Insurance Servicing Carrier for the State of Mississippi for over 10 years. Patrece is the mother of her amazing daughter, Destini, age 19, who is now college focused.

Patrece within her 1st year as a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant, ranked Head of State for Mississippi in June 2000, with over \$11K Retail. She earned the use of her first Mary Kay Career Car, a Candy Apple Red Grand AM in 2001, debuted as a Sales Director in June 2002, representing the Destini Divine Dreamers Unit; In July 2002, she resigned from her employment to become a full-time Independent Mary Kay Sales Director venturing into a God-given, purpose-fulfilling career; thereafter, achieving the Notable Mary Kay Honor Society Award in 2003. She is currently embarking upon celebrating 20 years as a business owner this August 2019.

Patrece has since then, lead her unit 4 times to being a Premier Club Unit, and currently a GRAND Achieving Unit, awaiting the arrival of having earned the use of her 9th Mary Kay Business 2020 Company Career Car. She and her unit ranked #9 as Rookie of the Year in 2002, has ranked as the #1 Unit for the past 8 consecutive years in the Solid as a Rock National, Caterina Harris Earl Area and ranked in the Top 10 of the Most Improved Units in the State of Mississippi in 2014!

Patrece has earned numerous awards and prizes, a 4.5 carat Amethyst Diamond Ring in the Queen's Court of Personal Sales, 10 gold medals and 71 times Star, earning her Diamond Star Ladder of Success. Patrece is motivated by purpose, understanding the importance of every woman embracing their journey. Her mission is empowering women through their God-given motivational gifts with excellence; helping them to maximize their strengths, not to compromise for anything less than their heart's desire; believing that when a woman really wants something.....she will work hard for it. Patrece knows that her Mary Kay business is a catalyst that breathes dreams & visions into reality. Her biggest gratitude is having a flexible schedule to be available to steer her daughter in the admiration of the Most High God, providing her with no college debt. Patrece expresses that when she thinks about her JOURNEY in Mary Kay, it has simply been the "Catalyst that breathes dreams and visions into reality". It amazes her at how God takes the foolish things to confine the wise...and for her...God took a bottle of "blemish control toner" to change her life ...her DESTINY, her LIFE! Her "FOCUS"SPEAK LIFE!!!

Ms. Patrece Johnson is "THE BEAUTY WITHIN SPEAKS".