

Recognizing and Rewarding Extraordinary Women

The LaTeacha A. Coleman Foundation announces an award to support the extraordinary women competing in the All American & Mrs. All American Pageant to be held in Ocean City, Maryland, during October 2018. LaTeacha (All American Miss 2011), spent a great deal of her life fighting to find a cure for cancer that took her life at the age of thirty-two. Having lost her battle on April 2, 2015, LaTeacha left behind a loving husband, son, and mother. Most importantly, she left a legacy of fighting for a disease that has consumed the lives of millions of women and men throughout the world. She was indeed a precious jewel that was tested by fire, refined, and will never be forgotten. In memory of her work and legacy, the LaTeacha A. Coleman Foundation will present an award to one lady from the following criteria:

Areas of Competition

- 50% Super High Fashion Wear
Chose a high fashion outfit in any shade of green to be modeled at the Fashion Show on Friday, October 5th.
- 50% Platform Statement
Submit a 350-word essay based on your community service and platform portfolio over the past two years.

These are the instructions for typing your platform statement. This will comprise your essay entry for the LaTeacha A. Coleman Foundation Award. Please follow the specific directions:

- Go to the word processing program of your computer.
- Start a “new” document.
- Set margins for 1” on all four sides. The font should be “12” point type using the Times Roman font style.
- With the justification set for left, type “**Name:**” in bold. Following the colon (:) hit the space bar twice. Then, type your name.
- Then, move to the next line and type “**Title:**” in bold. Following the colon (:), hit the space bar twice. Then type your local title.
- Double space down. Set your justification to “center”. Then type in **bold and underline** the title of your Platform.
- Double space down. Write what you feel is critical to know about your platform and how you have previously been involved with your platform, and your role the community. The body of your essay can be set to 1.15 line spacing or left at single spacing.
- Leave a space between paragraphs and do not indent (see example).
- The platform statement must be **SINGLE-SIDED on a single sheet of paper and NO MORE THAN 350-words in the body of the essay.**

The top winner from the “Shades of Green” Super High Fashion Wear and Platform Statement from all ages will receive an embroidered LaTeacha A. Coleman Foundation sash, a custom crown, and \$500.00 special award.

Name: Jane Doe

Title: All American Local Title

YOUth Empowerment

Through leadership skills and community service, youth can gain confidence. Through these experiences, teenagers discover who they truly are, empowering them to dream and reach their full potential. Society places pressure on youth today—how to look, what success is, who they are supposed to become, and what they are supposed to accomplish during their lives. Although some of these high expectations can be encouraging and positive, they also can come with a lot of negative effects. It is important to give teenagers, who are in a transitioning phase of their lives, the support and encouragement to find their own passions. They need to discover who they are, and be true to that.

As someone who struggled with self-confidence and depression during my teen years, I know the importance of leadership and being involved in the community. These leadership skills develop self-confidence and a sense of self-worth. Through working with the Oregon Association of Student Councils, Students Today Leaders Forever, and College LeaderShape, I have been able to promote my platform all over the state. With these organizations, I have been able to instill leadership skills in other teenagers and encourage them to use community opportunities, thus empowering them to be confident enough to stand up and take initiative for what they want and what they believe in.

These organizations are committed to developing leadership with a vision of service, involvement, and action. They believe that by building confidence, character, and leadership skills in youth, we will be able to change the world. I have worked as a Junior Camp Counselor, served as a College Leader/Counselor, been a participant in the University of Oregon LeaderShape, and put on leadership events within my own local community. With my college major of Family and Human Services, I have had numerous opportunities to work with at-risk youth through my internship at Ophelia's Place, and teenagers through my internships at Sheldon High School. Everyone has the power to do something, to be a contributing force, and I believe that when opportunities arise for one to make a difference, they should seize the moment.