

## **Natascha F. Saunders, M.S., MBA**

*Ed.D. in Leadership & Communication, Candidate '17*

Certified Professional Career Coach (PARW/CC)

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An inspirational speaker and workshop facilitator Natascha F. Saunders is Founder of The Youth Career Coach Inc. with a mission to help prepare the next generation of millennial leaders. She has over 10+ years of experience in higher education, financial services, human resources and leadership development.

Natascha is a former Assistant Director of Career Services at Boston University School of Management where she managed their employment report; publish annually with the coordination of 18 team members and 500 graduating seniors. She is a former Co-op & Employment Specialist at Johnson & Wales University where she co-led employment efforts for over 1600 students within the College of Business. Also, she administered and graded thesis projects for over 300 seniors per academic year; while contributing to maintaining the 98% graduation employment rate.

She is a former Assistant Human Resource Manager for Filene's/Macy's where she managed and led over 300 associates in developing optimum selling and exceptional customer service skills and hit new hire compliance targets of 100%. She negotiated salaries with new hires comparison to budget; while conducting employee reviews, and successfully hired and trained over 200 associates under her tenure.

Natascha worked as a Financial Associate for A.G.Edwards & Sons Inc. now Wells Fargo handling investment portfolios with assets up to \$100 million dollars reporting directly to the Vice President of Investments. She executed wire transfers, processed trades including options and wrote both domestic and international fund tickets while analyzing bond and cash flow reports. She successfully supported the opening of over 300 investment advisory accounts including IRAs, Trusts, 401(k), 403(b), Money Market accounts and 529 Plans. Also establishing rapport with vendors such as American Funds, John Hancock, MFS, BlackRock, and Vanguard; never losing sight of her operational duties of monitoring and calculating trade commissions for consultants, as well as helping in recruiting efforts.

Additionally, she's served on the MBA Admissions Committee for Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management where she evaluated applications for admission while analyzing qualifications of prospective students. She has also served MIT in additional capacities including Employer Relations, Career Programs and as a Ph.D. Career Advisor.

Furthermore, Natascha has served in many reputable roles including: Academic Curriculum Consultant at Northeastern University helping to redesign the Leadership Major, Interim Academic Affairs Director at George Washington School of Political Management, Interim Director of the Early Childhood Learning Institute at Hopkins House, TRiO Instructor at Howard University, Education Consultant for EnCompass Education serving clients such as EMD Serono/division of Merck KGaA, Former Adjunct Faculty Member at Trinity Washington University, Human Resources Manager / Recruiter for Clarendon Real Estate, Communications Doctoral Intern for the U.S. Department of Education, Former Writer for the AFRO Newspaper and Resident Intern at The Heritage Foundation an American conservative think-tank based in Washington, D.C.

Currently, Natascha serves as a Leadership Lecturer at Northeastern University, Gender Women's Studies Part-Time Faculty at the University of Rhode Island, MBA Admissions Consultant at The MBA Exchange, Scholar Interviewer at The Journal of Negro Education, and Senior Fellow at the American Leadership & Policy Foundation. These roles provide the avenue for Natascha to travel and facilitate workforce development workshops and leadership training across the United States, under The Youth Career Coach Inc. which was founded by her in 2009.

Natascha's speaking engagements have included: PWC, KPMG, Federal Reserve Bank, Year-Up, Goodwill Industries, The Links, Jack & Jill, Mocha Moms, National Black MBA, Brown University, Harvard University, George Mason University, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Jubilee Christian Church, National Urban League, NAACP, and much more. She has been featured in media outlets including: ABC, BNN, COX, Verizon Fios, Scholastic Choices, InsideJobs, CareerBuilder, Providence American, Fall River Herald, Gen Y Radio, Canada CKNW 980, WHUR 96.3 FM, Touch 106.1 FM, Voice America Dallas, Australia Podcast, and METRO; additionally, Working Mother Magazine, Color Magazine and the U.S. Department of Education Youth Voices Newsletter. *A cool fact:* Natascha interviewed former Secretary of State John Kerry when he served as Senator from Massachusetts and Roslyn Brock, Chairwoman of the NAACP.

Natascha received a Senate citation for the completion of Leadership for a Future Training Program under the Institute for Labor Studies and Research and The National Conference for Community & Justice. She is also a graduate of the Commonwealth Seminar (MassCS) Legislative Training Program held at the Massachusetts State House. She has also served as Miss Black Rhode Island 2006 and 2007 under the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant and named Goodwill Ambassador to Gambia, West Africa and traveled throughout Senegal and Morocco.

Grateful for a unique education beginning, while attending the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Natascha designed her own field of study within the Bachelor Degree Interdisciplinary (BDIC) program entitled, "Image Consulting." To accomplish such a goal, she had to write a proposal, petition the school and seek faculty and administration approval. She combined courses from the Isenberg School of Management, School of Public Health, as well as the Department of Consumer Studies. This experience provided Natascha with a diversified perspective on career development and formed the groundwork for her consulting and entrepreneurial endeavors.

Additionally, Natascha earned an MBA in *Global Business Organizational Leadership* from Johnson & Wales University, Master of Science in *Leadership* and is currently an Ed.D. Candidate in *Organizational Leadership & Communication* from Northeastern University. She is also a Certified Career Coach from The Professional Association of Resume Writers & Career Coaches, an Executive Education Alumna of both Harvard Kennedy School in Leadership, Organizing and Action, and MIT Sloan in Entrepreneurship. She is trained in Mediation from Harvard Law and in Scaling Up from Stanford Online.

Steep in volunteerism, Natascha has served as President of the Career Development Ministry at Alfred Street Baptist Church a 7000+ member church in Virginia, Veterans Career Coach for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – Hiring Our Heroes, Garden Tour Security on the South Lawn at The White House, Security for President Obama's visit to Alfred Street Baptist Church Easter Service, she previously sat on the education and labor relations board for NAACP Boston, and served on the board of Dimock Community Health Center and YWCA – Greater Rhode Island. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and was inducted into both Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity and Sigma Epsilon Rho Honor Society.

With a passion for writing, Natascha was a contributing author for the book 'Obama & Black Loyalty Vol. 1 Chapter 5: Black Youth & Unemployment'. Furthermore, her work has been featured in many publications including The Parents Guide to Starting the Career Conversation with InsideJobs, Why Internships Are Good: The Best Education Money Can't Buy, and her scholarly interviews with education leaders across the country can be found in the Journal of Negro Education at Howard University School of Education.

Natascha's recognitions include 2016 Women's Baptist Convention Northern Virginia Community Award Recipient, 2016 New York City Pipeline Angel Funding Finalist, 2016 G.I.R.L. Inc. Appreciation, 2015 Northeastern University Excellence in Teaching Recognition, 2015 Defense Intelligence Agency: Federally Employed Women Commitment to Service, 2014 METCO Alumni Recognition, 2011 United Way Appreciation, 2011 Change Agent for MA Housing 'Youth Town Hall', 2011 'Spark & Hustle Daring Doer' by CEO, Tory Johnson, ABC Workplace Correspondent and 2010 Harvard WECAN Woman of the Year.

Natascha's hope is to fulfill her purpose of preparing this next generation of leaders to start, Excel and navigate their careers.

Natascha's motto is: "***BE WHAT IT IS YOU WANT TO ATTRACT!***"