

NAACP

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.” Martin Luther King jr.

November 6th Election

What is your plan for getting to the polls? Do you know where your polling place is? Do you have a ride? The NAACP will be able to help with transportation to the polls if needed. Contact us at (417) 873-6386 if you need a ride.

The NAACP doesn't endorse candidates but does promote issues. Vote yes on amendment 1, the Clean Missouri Ballot Initiative to reduce the flow of big money into our politics. Vote yes on amendment 2 for medical marijuana (the other medical marijuana bills are flawed). Vote yes on Proposition B to gradually raise the minimum wage in Missouri to \$12 an hour by 2023.

“The power of the vote is the ONLY place where the power of the poor man is equal to that of the rich man.”



Meet Tausha Burton, LPN

What can you tell us about your background? I was born and raised in Springfield, in fact I was born here at Mercy. My parents have been married 34 years and I have one brother. I went to elementary school at Delaware, junior high at Jarrett and high school at Parkview. Generally I ran in circles of white people and had white friendships. After

finishing high school I started

MSU to study criminal psychology. At the insistence of my father I shadowed at the Hospital. I shadowed with some Occupational Therapists (OT) and discovered that wasn't for me.

I shadowed some nurses and figured out that's what I wanted to do. I then started at Ozarks Technical School (OTC) for Licensed Practical Nursing, (LPN) training. The program was hard, so hard I didn't pass the first time. I re-took a semester and graduated in December of 2016. I had been working as a Patient Care Assistant (PCA) before graduation and had fallen in love with the gynecology floor and that is where I work now. I am currently in an Associates of Nursing program (ASN) at which point I will be a Registered Nurse (RN).

Tell us about your family.

My mom is a “Community Health Worker” for Jordan Valley Community Health Center. She helps improve health outcomes



Youth Empowerment Summit At MSU

The Youth Empowerment Summit was held October 24th at MSU. Several hundred African American high school youth from all of the Springfield schools and several outlying schools attended. Dana Ford, the new head basketball coach at MSU spoke at the opening of the event about making the most of opportunities presented to you. He spoke of friendships in diverse social groups being opportunities, education being an opportunity and work being an opportunity. Coach Ford spoke about the importance of respect, appropriate behavior for diverse situations and about dressing the part for what you want to do. He also emphasized not to apologize for the success that you earn.

In his introduction of Coach Ford, Wes Pratt, JD, the Chief Diversity Officer at MSU, spoke of growing up in Springfield where the black kids went to separate schools. He tasked us to celebrate our progress and to keep moving forward in our quest for equality.

and access to care. She had worked at the Regal/Beloit plant for years before starting this job. My Dad has been here since he was a kid and works as a custodian at the Springfield Airport. My brother has a glass store in Trinidad Colorado that caters to the marijuana market. *What are your goals Tausba?* I plan on graduating with my ASN degree in May and then work in the Intensive Care Unit for a while and then become a travel nurse. After that I would like to go back to school and get my Bachelors Degree of Nursing (BSN). I want to get married and have kids. I don't see myself staying in Springfield. In ten years I would like to be in Colorado. *Have you ever experienced racism?* Yes, but not very much. I remember our family being at Silver Springs Park and we overheard a white family say, "Time to leave, the ni**ers are here". I had white friends but sometimes wasn't allowed at their houses. My experiences of racism in healthcare have been minimal, a patient paged the head nurse and said, "Never let that ni**er in my room again". In truth, I haven't had many racial encounters. *Who are your heroes?* My Mom. She's the best person in the world. She is kind, generous and helpful. She wants people to be happy and love the lord. *What advice do you have for young people?* Figure out what you want to do and don't stop until you get there. School was so hard for me but I had to continue on even through some failures. Work to overcome self-doubt, finances and any other barriers you find in your path.

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

The Freedom Fund Banquet was held on October 20th to recognize the 2018 scholarship recipients Destinee King and Kalee Brown. A silent auction was held to raise money for our scholarship fund.

The keynote speaker was Missouri State Representative Bruce Franks from the 78th district in St. Louis. Representative Franks, an activist and former rapper, challenged young people to pick up the mantle of activism in order to keep Dr. King's dream alive. Those who have not heard Bruce Franks speak, should do so.

