

Bio of LaShunda S. Hill, Ed.M.



LaShunda S. Hill has committed her life to pursuing the higher calling of public service. A native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, LaShunda S. Hill lives by the philosophy that *“one should pursue excellence not for self benefit, but to better the world around them.”* Indeed, during both her undergraduate and graduate career, Ms. Hill has excelled academically, but has also nurtured her deep commitment to serving the public good. She has committed her life and career to serving the needs of youth facing multidimensional risk. LaShunda is an experienced youth advocate, and has been recognized for her leadership, intellectual ability, and passion for making a difference.

She was chosen as a 2008 **Princeton University Public Policy and International Affairs (PPIA) Fellow**, where she received intensive training in quantitative research methods, policy research and writing, economics and statistics. She also had the opportunity to critically analyze juvenile justice policy reform options as a part of a consulting project for the New Jersey Attorney General. In addition to PPIA, LaShunda was chosen as one of only 60 students nationwide, for the prestigious **Harry S. Truman Scholarship** as the 2009 Scholar from the state of Tennessee.

In 2007, LaShunda interned for the **Hamilton County Juvenile Court** where she conducted research on the impact of juvenile waiver practices on child well being and trends nationally in its use. In addition to her front line work with youth in need, LaShunda S. Hill also has accumulated education policy experience. In 2007, she interned for the **Tennessee State Legislature’s House Majority Leader** where she conducted legislative research on the Governor’s Schools First Initiative.

In 2008, Ms. Hill sought to understand child well being internationally, and thus chose to study abroad in Ghana. While in Ghana, she interned for the **Ghanaian Ministry of Women and Children** where she co-organized a rape and sexual assault seminar, and she also volunteered with Global Civic Preservation, **teaching Ghanaian street children English and social studies**. Ms. Hill also has worked with **The Constituency for Africa**; a Washington D.C. based non-governmental organization devoted to advocating for the continent. While in Washington, she assisted in the planning and organizing of the annual **Ron H. Brown African-Affairs Series Next Generation Youth Event**.

In 2010 she graduated **magna cum laude** with **highest honors** from the **University of Tennessee at Chattanooga**. She received a **B.S. in Public Policy and Administration**, a **B.S. in Sociology**, and a **B.A. in International Studies**. At UTC, she was inducted into the prestigious **Alpha Society**, **Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society**, **Pi Sigma Political Science Honors Society** and was a **William Brock University Honors Program Scholar**. LaShunda also received the **UTC Outstanding Achievement Award** four years in a row, in recognition of her academic excellence. Ms. Hill is also a member of the **Golden Key National Honors Society**.

While in college, LaShunda interned for the **U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee**, where she drafted policy recommendations regarding the reauthorization of the **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)**. She also worked on the reauthorization of the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)**, specifically changes to Title I policy. While working for the **U.S. Senate**, LaShunda worked on research regarding possible changes to the **McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act** in order to increase educational protections and services for transient student populations.

LaShunda also co-founded with her mother, the **Many Faces of Diversity Program at UTC (MFDUTC)** in 2007. MFDUTC seeks to expose underrepresented students to college, through an intensive summer program that provides assistance with college and scholarship applications, ACT preparation, and also provides students with training in college study skills, writing and research.

Additionally, she worked as a **Student Research Assistant to Dr. Melissa Anyiwo**, and assisted with the **H. H. Battle Research Project**, conducted research for the development of interdisciplinary Africana Studies program at UTC; and worked on textbook analysis, program guidelines, and course recommendations.

Ms. Hill was chosen as a 2011 **Harvard Law School Trials Program** fellow, and was chosen by the **Children's Defense Fund to participate in their Youth Advocate Leadership Training Program in 2008 and 2009**. She also was a **2013 National Juvenile Justice Network's Youth Justice Leadership Institute Fellow**, working on juvenile justice issues.

As a **Junior Research Partner** with **Howard-Hill Consultants**, Ms. Hill also conducted research in many areas related to youth. Also, Ms. Hill has **interned for the Och Center for Metropolitan Studies**, where she was the research assistant to the President of the Och Center, and **conducted research for a Brookings Institute funded Criminal Justice Project** focused on the Southeast, and the **Community Food Assessment** for the greater Chattanooga area.

LaShunda S. Hill graduated in 2011 from the **Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE)** with an **Ed.M. in Adolescent Prevention Science and Practice**.

While earning an **Ed.M. in Adolescent Prevention Science and Practice** at the **Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE)**, LaShunda received training in developing policies and programs that aim to minimize or eliminate barriers to achievement for youth facing risk factors in their lives. She specializes in policy and programming for low-income, homeless, court-involved, and foster youth. Ms. Hill completed a consulting project with the Massachusetts Department of Education that outlined state strategies to provide district level incentives for developing and expanding local dropout recovery services. In addition to her stellar classroom work, LaShunda also worked at an alternative middle school in Boston, **Middle School Academy**, where she designed a school-wide conflict resolution program, and conducted behavioral interventions.

She also worked at the **Quincy Teen Mothers Program**, where she led a girls group that helped young mothers be re-integrated back into school, and focused on how to deal with troubled relationships, motherhood, and childhood trauma. Finally, during her time at HGSE, LaShunda S. Hill also interned for **Citizens for Juvenile Justice**, a policy advocacy organization aiming to reform the Massachusetts juvenile justice system.