

## Biography of Ms. Shonta D. Collins

Ms. Shonta D. Collins, RN, BSN, MPA, MSN (c) native of Missouri, is a global traveler and International Educator, with interests in humanitarian work, nursing, and scholarly writing. Ms. Collins was named Bank of America's Local Hero in 2009 and was nominated for the fall 2008 Pine-Sol Powerful Difference Award, an award given to a select group of women making a significant difference in their community. She was also nominated a by Penn Presbyterian Hospital for the Nursing Spectrum's Nursing Excellence Award in the category for Community Service and was the finalist in this category. The award recognizes RN's who have made significant professional or voluntary contributions that have improved patient care. In addition, Ms. Collins was also nominated for Philadelphia's Business Journals 40 under 40, those who are up and comers who have shaped our community in ways that have made Greater Philadelphia a greater place to do business and live.

Ms. Collins is originally from St. Louis, Missouri where she attended undergraduate at Columbia College, majored in Political Science/History, Minor in Business, and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from LaSalle University. Shonta has been involved in local and global community projects for over 14 years and is a long standing member of NAFSA: Association for International Educators. In addition to her community and civic involvement, Ms. Collins is a member of the American Critical Care Nurses Association, actively involved in evidenced-based practice and research to enhance educational programs for the community at large.

Throughout her educational career, Ms. Collins completed an independent study in Dakar, Senegal, have traveled to Mexico, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Belgium. In addition, Ms. Collins is planning humanitarian trips to Haiti, Senegal and Kenya. At the present time, Ms. Collins the Founder and President of Explorers Sans Frontières (ESF), a grass roots organization supporting underserved populations in both the local and global community. ESF's team of volunteers are responding the crisis in Haiti by developing short and long-term projects to address the humanitarian needs, mobilizing local Philadelphia residents and deploy groups of multi-disciplinary teams over the next several years! ESF is not reacting but supporting the long term needs and commitments to repairing the lives, well-being and quality of life for the Haitian community. Furthermore, Ms. Collins is also employed in a Critical Care Unit within the University of Pennsylvania Health System and the Co-Chair for Professional Development and Community Outreach.

She has worked as an International Education Coordinator for LaSalle University and former Nurse Extern in the Emergency/Trauma Department at Albert Einstein Medical Hospital. After completing her Master's degree, Ms. Collins accepted a position at Dechert, LLP and later, Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer, LLP immigration practice group in Philadelphia. She has also worked for International SOS, a medical/emergency services company.

Ms. Collins has been featured in print media and has also published articles in professional nursing magazines. Her recent publication, "Achieving Expertise: *How does a newly graduated RN begin the journey from novice nurse to expert?*" printed summer 2008 issue of *Minority Nurse*. Her other publication, "*Is Cultural Competency Required for Today's Nursing Care?*"

appeared in the February 2006 issue of IMPRINT. She is currently preparing to submit future articles for healthcare professionals and developing a strategic plan to pursue her dream career as International Nurse Educator and travel to assist with humanitarian projects in underdeveloped countries in the world.