



TYRONE J. FLOWERS

SPEAKER. MENTOR. STORYTELLER

Short Bio

Tyrone J. Flowers, BA '93, JD '98, overcame a traumatic childhood and survived gunshot injuries that left him in a wheelchair at age 17. From then, he made it his goal to succeed in college and then use his education to help youth and the community. Flowers received a BA degree in Sociology from the University of Missouri and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Missouri School of Law.

Flowers is a frequent speaker and provides training & workshops across the country. His audiences include educational & juvenile institutions, businesses, churches, and civic & community organizations. Flowers' presentations are enriched by his personal story of overcoming obstacles as a youth and becoming an entrepreneur, visionary & servant leader. His story serves to captivate, motivate, educate, inspire & challenge his audiences.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors, he was named "Top Forty Under Forty" by Ingram's Business Magazine, recognizing him as one of Kansas City's most influential and accomplished leaders. Flowers is passionately involved in his community and has received countless awards in recognition of his work with others. His mission is to encourage individuals to develop a resilience mindset as the key to overcoming adversity, and achieving long-term personal and professional success.

Long Bio

Tyrone J. Flowers is a product of the family court and juvenile justice system. His childhood was spent being shuffled between foster homes, detention centers, reform schools, hospitals and state youth facilities. Adults and service providers gave up hope for Flowers and predicted he would be in jail or dead by the age of 21. Flowers was determined to prove wrong to all the adults who had no hope for his future. However, two weeks before graduation, Flowers was shot three times by a basketball teammate. The shooting left him in a wheelchair. Faced with decisions about his future with limited use of his body, Flowers chose to use his mind.

Flowers has received an Associate of Arts degree from MCC-Penn Valley, Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and received a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Missouri School of Law. Flowers is an Aspen Institute Scholar. The Aspen Institute recognizes remarkable action-oriented leaders from all over the United States and around the

world, for their work and accomplishments and for their ability to transform ideas into action. He is also a Council On Legal Education Institute Scholar, Georgetown University Public Policy Institute Center for Juvenile Justice Reform Fellow, a Morgan State University U.S. Congressional Black Caucus Political Educational & Leadership Institute Fellow and a Rotary Club International Paul Harris Fellow. Flowers is the first person in his family to obtain a college degree. Flowers was invited to the White House where he was honored by President George W. Bush for outstanding achievements. Also, Flowers was selected, and given the opportunity and privilege to meet President Barack Obama.

Flowers has a combination of over 30 years of experience in the field of juvenile justice and youth development. His personal and professional experience with the family court and careful study of the juvenile justice system and various youth agencies and organizations led him to create Higher M-Pact, Inc., a community-based non-profit organization.

As Founder and President of Higher M-Pact, their focus is to mentor, develop and restore hope in the lives of high-risk urban youth & young adults, their families and high-risk communities, thus turning their obstacles into opportunities and creating a foundation for success. Higher M-Pact has positioned itself to emerge as a leader in providing effective programs, services and experiences for high-risk urban youth & young adults in the Kansas City, Missouri area and beyond.

Flowers' motivation comes from two sources: faith in Christ and desire to fulfill his God given purpose. He is involved with community service organizations, agencies and has served on local, statewide and national committees and boards. He is a member of the Missouri Supreme Court Committee on Civic Education and serves on the Public Outreach Subcommittee. Also, Flowers serves on the University of Missouri-Columbia Alumni Association's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Flowers was appointed by the Commissioners of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to serve on the Missouri State Advisory Board. Flowers has also received several Gubernatorial Appointments including the Commission to End Chronic Homelessness in Missouri and Missouri's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group. Flowers served on the Board of Directors of the Kansas City Kansas School Foundation for Excellence and Higher M-Pact, Inc. Also, he served on the Advisory Board of the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS), Kansas City House of Hope, Urban Scholastic Center, and the Metropolitan Community College - Penn Valley TRIO Student Advisory Board. Flowers holds life memberships in the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the University of Missouri Alumni Association. He is an Alumni member of the Greater Kansas City Chambers of Commerce Centurions Leadership Program.

Flowers has received countless awards in recognition for his civic, professional and community contributions also for creating an organization that is a catalyst for change. Flowers is the recipient of the Consensus "Civility Award" which highlights individuals who have worked across differences to improve their community. Also, the "Kansas City's Kindest Kansas Citian Honorary Star Award" and was honored by the KC Chamber of Commerce Centurions with the "Bernard Powell Award." Flowers is the recipient of the Council for Opportunity in Education "National TRIO Achievers Award" and the "National Trumpet Community Spirit Award." Flowers was honored by Ingram's Business Magazine as one of the "Top Forty Under Forty"

most influential and accomplished leaders. He has been named one of "Kansas City's 25 Most Influential Movers and Shakers 50 and Under" by The Call Newspaper a Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas City, Kansas publication. Flowers received the Sertoma Club "Service to Mankind Award", the NAACP "Carl R. Johnson Humanitarian Award", the 100 Black Men "Community Leader of the Year Mentoring Award" and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Beta Lambda Chapter, "Outstanding Community Service Award." He was the recipient of the FOX 4 News "Our Heroes Award" in recognition of his esteemed work in the community and the inspiration provided to his peers to strive for excellence in all endeavors. The Black Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City recognized Flowers with the "Freshman Entrepreneur Advocate Award" and he was honored with the "Bruce H. Scott Award," by the Kansas City Mayor's Office for outstanding achievement.

Flowers was recognized by the University of Missouri for his professional accomplishments by receiving the Alumni Association's "Faculty-Alumni Award" and College of Arts and Science "Distinguished Alumni Award." Also, Flowers received the University Of Missouri School Of Law's "Distinguished Recent Graduate Award" and the "Outstanding Alumni Award." He was also honored by the University of Missouri' and the Missouri Community College Association with the "Presidents and Chancellors Council Award" for distinguished and successful mutual alumni. Flowers was inducted in the inaugural class of Metropolitan Community College - Penn Valley's Alumni Hall of Fame. Also, he is an honorary member of the "Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society's Upsilon Kappa Chapter."

Flowers has been featured in numerous publications for his work. Flowers has been featured in Charisma, Jet and People Magazine "Heroes Among Us." His story is highlighted in Holt McDougal High School Psychology Book, on Adolescent Identity Formation. His success has been documented as part of Missouri's History in the book A Very Special Place in Life; The History of Juvenile Justice in Missouri and in the books Dispatches from Juvenile Hall: Fixing a Failing System and Be Somebody: A Guide to Achieving Personal Success. Also, Flowers story has been featured on CBS Evening News, in the international documentary Youth Under Fire: Youth Violence in America, 100 Huntley Street Television Show, GOD TV, Family Life Radio, Focus on the Family Broadcast, The 700 Club television program and in a video as part of the I AM SECOND international movement, giving the hope of Christ to individuals dealing with typical struggles of everyday living.

Flowers is a frequent speaker, lecturer, and provides training, and workshops on a local, state and national level across the United States. Flowers' insights, passion and personal experience serve to captivate, motivate, educate, inspire and challenge his audiences. Flowers' audience has included corporate, educational institutions, agencies, churches, civic and community organizations. Flowers' presentations are enriched by his own personal experiences of what it took for him to become an entrepreneur and visionary leader, starting out as a high-risk urban youth from the streets and juvenile institutions of Kansas City, MO. To date over 50 million individuals have heard Flowers' story and the Higher M-Pact message through presentations, print and broadcast media.

Flowers is a native of Kansas City, MO where he currently resides.