



Melissa Morgan

Biography

Innovation is often the key to success. Melissa encompasses this ideal throughout all of her community service activities. While in high school, Melissa was dedicated to visionary projects that encouraged teen leadership, service learning, and drug abuse prevention. By relaying a positive message through high school, community, and student-based conference presentations, she empowered youth while presiding over the School/Community Action Team (S/CAT).

When Melissa spearheaded the annual Teen and Kids Leadership conferences (TLC & KLC), young people learned about drug abuse prevention, team building, time management, trust, and other necessary learning skills. In college, Melissa expanded the conference to a neighboring county to reach more youth as she initiated “A Summit for Jacksonville’s Future Youth Forum.” She consistently addressed a variety of audiences on motivation, self-confidence, and community service.

Melissa’s dedication to the community continued as a graphic design major at the University of North Florida. As a sophomore in the UNF Honor’s Program, Melissa inspired and recruited potential freshmen. In honor of her hero, Martin Luther King, Jr., she became active in expanding cultural awareness by leading cultural diversity workshops. Her interests also led her to help bring a million dollars to UNF in order to create the NIKE/Jaguars Foundation Community Scholars Mentoring Program for at-risk youth.

In addition to addressing diverse venues such as Stanton College Preparatory School, Epcot Center, and University of Central Florida’s LIFT Summit, Melissa has presented workshops and group sessions to churches and high schools and has also hosted multi-school forums. As a Rotary Scholar of Good Will in Venezuela, Melissa carried her uplifting message to South American communities and founded Embajadores de Buena Voluntad (Ambassadors of Good Will), a community service club that unites North and South Americans in serving Venezuela’s forgotten people.

Melissa began her professional career with the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), where she coordinated camps for California youth and community members that used dialogue as a tool to examine personal prejudices in order to fight bias, bigotry and racism. She later served as the Assistant Project Director of the “A World of Difference” program for the Anti-Defamation League. Melissa currently serves as the Human Dignity Officer for the City of Long Beach, where she investigates hate crimes and hate-related incidents and promotes harmony through conflict resolution and meditation.

Melissa’s experiences with community service, her innovation, and her co-curricular approach to learning have given her a broad foundation for her powerful presentations. As an inspirational speaker, Melissa is dedicated to making youth aware of the many positive choices before them. Through multimedia presentations involving music, video, and movement, she captures audiences by demonstrating how anyone can make a difference by living a positive life and helping others.