



# FORMER HOSA NATIONAL OFFICER IS MISS BLACK KENTUCKY

**Washington, D.C.-** Most people would find teaching or attending college a very rigorous or demanding task. However, some people manage to do it all; a profession, school, family, friends and several other obligations. This case proves evident with the newly selected 2009 Miss Black Kentucky USA, Tamira A. Cole. A beauty queen, an author and teacher all at the age of 24!

Cole, a Jackson, TN native, is a current graduate student at Austin Peay State University in education carrying a 3.7 grade point average, is not only a student, but an English teacher at Northeast High School and author of the upcoming provocative fictional drama, HUSH. The book, published by Xlibris Publishing Company is set to hit bookstores in January 2009. Cole, selected by the National Miss Black USA Recruitment Team and Panel in October, balances her time between all four roles and has even in her short reign, as Miss Black Kentucky USA, began a unique start with her platform YOUth in Action. She is a member and works with the youth at Gods Sanctuary Church.

Her platform deals specifically with the development, mentorship and education of youth of all ages through civic involvement, peer education, adult mentorship and community activism. She has already been selected to be the first and only female member of the Africa Challenge International Board of Directors. Her program, Reach Out has its inaugural class of ten youth from Ghana. She has even began developing the pitches for university presidents to endorse the first ever, U.S. Public Service Academy, which will be the nation's first undergraduate institution in Washington, D.C. Vice President-Elect Joe Biden has already co-sponsored the bill, in hopes that President-Elect Barack Obama will sign for the support of the institution.

Cole, a 4-Her of 14 years and former National Region Vice President of the Health Occupations Students of America Organization (HOSA), received her undergraduate degree in English from APSU. She is a 2004 USA Today All-USA Academic College Team Honorable Mention (top 100 colleges students in the country), 2005 Glamour Magazine Top 22 College woman in America, U.S. Congressional Bronze Medal Award for service and the youngest selected outstanding alumna of Chi Omega Women's Fraternity. She has studied at Princeton and Brown Universities, lectured at

Columbia University and was crowned Homecoming Queen in 2005.

Cole, who traveled to Ireland and Canada to study abroad this past summer, was also featured in SHAPE Magazine as a model of fitness in August 2008. Cole lost a total of 20 pounds a year ago in pursuit of competing in either the Miss America or the Miss Black USA Pageant. It had been a dream for her to compete and become an author.

When asked how it felt to live out so many of her dreams at once she stated, "God is so wonderful. I never thought in a million years that everything would come so fast and so quickly in my life. I never planned to travel to Ireland and Canada in the same year nor get my first teaching job or become a state titleholder. It has been a wonderful journey. I encourage my students to work hard and aspire to do and be great. Never settle. When I lost my first pageant I was determined that I would reach my goal. I did and I am proud to represent not only Kentucky, but for all young women around the world," Cole said.

Cole will advance to the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant in Washington, D.C. on July 28-August 4th. The Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant is the largest contributor of scholarships for women of color totaling more than \$300,000 in its 21 year history.

Only time will tell what's next for Cole. Could she be the 2009 Miss Black USA? A New York Times Best Selling author? Teacher of the Year? The sky's the limit and she's teaching her student's just that.

For more information on Tamira Cole, Miss Black Kentucky USA 2009 and her platform, visit [www.tamiraacole.com](http://www.tamiraacole.com).

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