

BRIGITTE PURVIS INTERVIEW

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It is almost a rarity to find all of the components of an angel in one person. But I am proud to say that I am blessed that I have been introduced to Brigitte Purvis. Brigitte works here in Kingsborough Community College. I wanted to interview her to give you a chance to get to know a little bit about her and also because she does a lot of things for us here at the college that we may not know about.

Brigitte is a Health Outreach Coordinator in the Health Education and Lifestyle Management Center, better known as the H.E.L.M center. It is not hard to recognize her at all. Brigitte stands out like a shining star in a clear dark sky. As soon as you walk into D102C she is the only tall and slim African American woman in the office. Brigitte has a very light caramel complexion and she always wears her hair in a high ponytail that comes toward the front of her face and slightly overlaps her ears. She almost never wears any make up. Her outer beauty comes from pure simplicity.

I first met Brigitte right before Thanksgiving break. The H.E.L.M center was holding their annual toy drive and I went there to find out more information about it. From the moment I walked into the door, Brigitte welcomed me with open arms. Bridgette assists students with any information that the center has on life and she organizes table exhibits on safe sex, along with free condom distribution, and how to keep healthy. They also often set up events for free mammographies and so much more.

The reason I call Brigitte a rarity is something that made me love her instantly. Brigitte will go to the end of the earth to help someone out. I am not just saying this because I have experienced her unconditional kindness. I always see these qualities that stand out in her personality. The saying "What you see is what you get" was made especially for her. Even the way she speaks will floor you; she speaks honestly, professionally and calmly. In addition to being open and true to her beliefs, I admire her for more reasons than I could list but one that tops it all is that as much as she has gone through and all of the hardships she realizes that she may one day face, she gives utmost glory and praise to God. To put the icing on the cake, Brigitte juggles her job, being a student and that is not all. She is also the loving mother to all three of her children. How many people can juggle all that and be successful at all of it too?

Brigitte used to be a Kingsborough student; she has graduated and is now studying for her bachelors' degree in business at Brooklyn College. Before working at Kingsborough, Brigitte worked as a suite manager in Keyspan Park. When I asked her why she left Keyspan Park and joined the Kingsborough staff she said, "I enjoy assisting students in the areas of health outreach" and has now been working here for six months. Her first impression of our campus was as she said "an elite C.U.N.Y. country club with several educational opportunities." Six months later she still views Kingsborough the same way but she added that "staff and students all work together for the common goal of education." When I asked Brigitte

what her future career plans were for the next few years she laughed and said "real to collect my pension" then she seriously answered that she sees herself with a masters degree, and being the director of her own consulting firm. Brigitte would be helping small businesses all over the United States.

I could go on and on about Brigitte and eventually end up writing a biography but instead I leave you with just a taste of who she is. So, if you need any information on Health and well-being or just have general questions, stop into the H.E.L.M center. You don't have to be shy because we have already introduced you to her. Always remember small deed makes a big impact even when we don't realize it.