

MISCHA TOLAND'S BIO

Mischa P. Toland, president and CEO, human development expert, inspirational speaker, and accomplished author is best known as a visionary, high-spirited, passionate, wise, and very inspiring. A 20 plus year veteran of the human service profession, Mischa's professional career has involved working in the not for profit sector, the for profit sector, the juvenile justice system, and the educational system in capacities that range from volunteer to grassroots worker to frontline staff to program coordinator to administrative/management role. Over the course of her 20 years in the field, Mischa's notable work with countless children, youth, and families has garnered her allies both locally and nationally.

While Mischa's entrepreneurial pursuit was initially actualized on a part-time basis in 2001, the determination to fulfill her life's purpose compelled her to transition to full-time status in 2004. Armed with decades of skill and experience—personal and professional, Mischa founded Greatness Now®, a human development company that specializes in fostering opportunities for individuals to acknowledge and actualize their greatness via one of our company's three core competency areas: professional development, personal development, and relationship development.

Through Greatness Now® Mischa serves as a national consultant, trainer, and collaborative partner to more than 40 prominent organizations, agencies, and school jurisdictions. She is the designer/creator of her company's more than 300 hundred products. Additionally, to meet the needs of a growing and diverse constituency, Mischa became the master mind behind the development of three (3) subsidiary companies of Greatness Now®: *Morals & Values Press®*, a publishing company; *Black Love Talk®*, a national organization purposed to improve perception as well as the quality of relating among men and women of African Descent; and *She Ain't Angry for Nothin'®*, an intervention and behavior modification program designed to identify, confront, and eradicate causal factors associated with anger and aggression in girls.

As a pioneering agent of change who is always seeking innovative and unconventional ways to effectively move individuals' lives forward, Mischa is the creator of the groundbreaking *Make Her Great Leadership Program*, a mentor-based model that takes high school girls who once struggled with anger and aggression, puts them in a teaching environment that allows them to heal in their hurt places, and then introduces these same girls to principals/practices of leadership that both calls forth their greatness and empowers them to lead/mentor presently challenged elementary and middle girls. Mischa was also the visionary/lead organizer of the first ever Youth Empowerment Summit held inside the Baltimore City Detention Center; the founder/co-coordinator of the GG (Great Girls) Project, which was a community collaboration between Greatness Now®, Towson University's Women's Center, and Baltimore City Women's Detention Center where female college students serve as mentor-pen pals to incarcerated teen girls; and in 2008, Mischa worked with a professional filming team to produce the inspiring DVD presentation *Serve, Learn to Serve, or Move Graciously Out of the Way*; for which she is the host and executive producer. The DVD presentation, funded by The John D. Catherine T. MacAthur Foundation's DMC Network, encompasses interviews with six human service professionals across the field who candidly share their perspectives about what the word "service" should mean to those who enter the human services profession.

As an inspirational speaker, Mischa speaks at conferences, churches, schools and companies throughout the country. As a prolific and accomplished writer, Mischa has done freelance writing for Jubilee Magazine and The Baltimore Sun's Unisun Magazine, was a contributing writer for the National Cares Mentoring Movement Mentors Manuel as well as authored and published seventeen (17) of her own books, *Wounded Voices Unwise Choices; Revolutionary Revelations: Daily Affirmations of Personal Celebration, Mental Stimulations, and Spiritual Inspiration; 30 Things He Told Me But Can't Tell You Because You Won't Listen; What Tough Times Taught Me; She Ain't Angry for Nothin'®: An Intervention & Behavior Modification Curriculum; 31 Days of Inspiration for Struggling Parents; encumbered: an engaging teen novel; Sacred: 100 Affirmations for Girls; Serving: 100 Affirmations for Human Service Professionals; CHAMPS: 100 Affirmations for Boys & Young Men; Together: 100 Affirmations for Couples; Ground: 100 Affirmations for Spiritual Folk, Let's Pray; Building Youth Leaders; Serve, Learn to Serve or Move Graciously Out of the Way, In Celebration of You: Words of Inspiration for Those Living with Breast Cancer, and Better*. Mischa is also the architect and the co-author of *Dare to Be Queen: A Wholistic & Comprehensive Curriculum for Girls*. And in addition to publishing her own books, Mischa has published books for other authors; *Leading to Win* by Dr. Andrey Bundley and *The Spirit of Fatherhood* by Olamina Stevenson.

Mischa attended Morgan State University majoring in Social Work/Psychology. She is a licensed minister and an ordained deaconess. She is the International Chair of the Baltimore Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women. She holds memberships with the National Speakers Association and National Cares Mentoring Movement, and also served for almost ten years as a certified trainer for Maryland Mentoring Partnership. For her works, Mischa has been the recipient of many citations, certificates and awards.

One of Mischa's best kept secrets is that she is a former talk show host of "Every Woman", WEEA 88.9 FM and she also served as a contributing relationship expert on Atlanta's "Power Talk" with Lorraine Jacques-White, 1380 WAOK.

Of all Mischa's accomplishments, her most valued is that of being helpmeet, best friend, and partner in life to her husband, Ranell; mother, mentor, and friend to her two grown sons, Kyle and James; and ma ma to her grandson, Kyle Jr. Mischa currently resides in Maryland.

Learn more about Mischa Toland's amazing career and the company she founded at www.greatnessnow.org.