

Sharrica Miller, PhD, RN



Sharrica Miller, PhD, RN, is a doctorally prepared, board certified pediatric nurse practitioner with over 16 years of experience in nursing and nursing education. After spending 12 years of her childhood in foster care, Dr. Miller went on to obtain her BSN from Howard University and worked bedside in multiple areas including pediatrics, med-surg, and critical care for five years before going back to school to become a nurse practitioner.

She earned her PhD from UCLA in 2017 and was named as one of five Johnson and Johnson's Minority Nurse Faculty Scholars two years in a row. She has been teaching pre-licensure nursing students and new grads for 10 years and during that time also worked in a variety of settings include home health, hospital-based education, public health, and palliative care.

Dr. Miller is a mentor, advocate, and researcher who recently won the 2019 Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity award at California State University, Fullerton for her work as director of the Diversity Support Team. She is also active in the community and her advocacy work earned her the 2021 Casey Family Foundation Alumni award. As a former foster youth and HBCU graduate, she utilizes both a professional and personal lens to guide her as she works with her Diversity Support Team to create and sustain DEI initiatives in the school of nursing. A dynamic presenter who keeps the crowd engaged, Dr. Miller is a nationally invited speaker who has worked with several organizations including USC, Georgetown, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and JCCA.

Every Youth Needs Someone

75 min presentation

Youth in foster care experience a tremendous amount of instability as they are shuffled from home to home. They have a constant fear and anxiety of the unknown, and a remarkable loss of security due to others making decisions about their life. Child welfare professionals and foster families often act with the best interest of the child in mind, but may be unaware of the emotional strain that foster care elicits.

There is strong evidence to suggest that foster youth who have at least one loving, stable adult in their lives experience better life outcomes in comparison to youth who do not. Thus, the overall goal of this presentation is to highlight best practices for ensuring that youth are able to meet this goal as early in their foster care journey as possible. Part informative, part inspirational, this presentation will highlight Dr. Miller's 12-year journey through foster care and provide a concrete example of the importance that child welfare professionals and others that work in this arena can have on the lives of foster youth.