

## **Biography of Brittni Ann-Marie Kellom**

Ms. Brittni Kellom is more than the Executive Director and Founder of a nonprofit. She is a social entrepreneur and visionary, advocating against child abuse by building a trauma-centered program for youth. Brittni is also a Certified Advanced Trauma Practitioner whose passion and creativity constantly challenges the status quo.

Brittni Ann-Marie Kellom bravely took on the arduous task of founding Just Speak; and began advocating when she was 17, and still in high school. Admirable strength was required to stand before audiences of all ages, genders, races and beliefs throughout Southeast Michigan telling her personal story of abuse. Yet, she remained undaunted and focused on advocating. Her initial goal was to eradicate the negative connotations associated with survivors of child sexual abuse. Brittni soon became aware that her voice empowered others with a voice, and her story empowered others to tell their story. Each speech revealed at least one person, who told their story of survival for the first time. This propelled her to develop one program-outLOUD. She researched trauma, coping, and exercises that would effectively engage young participants. She launched it one weekend with young girls who were on a weekend lock-in trip. It was so well received outLOUD became a staple.

Brittni discovered that most programs dealing with child sexual abuse avoided offering programs of prevention and awareness for 3-18-year-old youth. Her research led her to develop training for caregivers and others in the community to raise awareness. More importantly, she started training others to advocate, and developed programming that would appeal to affected youth. Brittni addressed intimate dating violence for the older participants, and safe touch for the younger groups. Her programming served at risk middle school students for an entire school year. Currently, as a 2017 Fellow for the 1<sup>st</sup> US Red Bull Amaphiko Academy, Brittni has broaden her focus to include young victims of childhood trauma, teaching them resiliency. Ms. Kellom's goal for Just Speak, Inc. is to purchase a building where youth who have been emotionally, physically or sexually abused can find solace through therapeutic and creative expression. Brittni hopes professionals will commit to volunteer their time to support others. The residential space will also house a school for non-traditional students.

Ms. Kellom is the recipient many awards and recognitions for her dedication and community service. Under her leadership, Just speak was awarded the 2016 Governor's Service Award for Outstanding Volunteer Programs. Additionally, her awards include: 2015 CEW Scholarship for Nontraditional Students-University of MI-Ann Arbor; 2015 Detroit Young Professionals Vanguard Award; 2014 Recognition by Detroit 2020-Inspire Award; Recipient of 2013 Playworks Game Changer Award- Respect; 2013 Revolve Detroit Pop-up business; Black Business Undergraduate Society Entrepreneur Scholarship recipient; Spirit of Detroit Community Service Award; and City of Detroit Distinguished Service Award. Brittni was among 11 millennials named in a Huffington Post article, "You May Not Know These Black Millennials, But They're Helping Detroit Make Its Comeback". In 2017, Kellom was among those featured in a Good magazine article, "These Activists Were Fed Up With The Education System, So They Came Up With Their Own"

She will continue her work at Just Speak, Inc as she moves toward preparation to continue coursework in trauma and behavioral studies in preparation for graduate school. Brittni's favorite things are family, friends, laughter, and music. Currently, she is an educator in a classroom of emotionally impaired students, she fondly refers to as "Ms. Kellom's Tribe. Brittni was honored to be awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for her lifetime commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service.