

THE ECONOMIC CLUB  
OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

**SCHOLARS TO LEADERS**

**Kamisha Mason**

**2015 Scholarship Recipient**



*2015 scholar, Kamisha Mason*

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Kamisha and her family moved to Washington, DC when she a small child. Her family settled down in the Southeast DC community. Despite the reputation of crime and poverty in the area, Kamisha loved her neighborhood and refused to let her zip code dictate her future. From an early age, her mother stressed the importance of education and trying new things. These lessons have continued to propel Kamisha to be the best version of herself.

Kamisha attended Ballou High School, a public school in southeast Washington, DC. She excelled in her academic work and was an AP and honors student all four years of high school. Kamisha did not let any distractions deviate her from a successful path, but rather, focused on strengthening her professional curriculum while still a student. During her junior and senior year, Kamisha was part of the Mayor Marion Barry Summer Youth Employment program, an initiative aimed to provide students with enriching and constructive summer work experiences in private and government sectors.

*"I'm living proof that school as a whole, is what you make of it."*

When the time came to apply for college, Kamisha credits her school counselor for introducing and encouraging her to apply for the David M. Rubenstein/Economic Club of Washington, D.C. Scholarship. She did not know about the Economic Club prior to applying for the scholarship, but quickly found out that the opportunity would offer more than just funding for college. After becoming a 2015 Economic Club scholar, Kamisha immediately jumped at one of the Economic Club's many opportunities for scholars to grow professionally. During the summer following high school graduation, Kamisha participated in the Business Leadership Development Seminars at BET Networks and Accenture, crediting both seminars as a great opportunity to build camaraderie with other scholars and a great opportunity to network.

Prior to her junior year of college, Kamisha was accepted to the Economic Club/Urban Alliance Summer Internship program where she worked with Martha's Table during the summer of 2017. She applied again the next year and interned with the Conference of State Bank Supervisors.

Kamisha graduated from North Carolina A&T University in 2019, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with honors (summa cum laude). After graduation, through the



*Kamisha and Accenture interns sharing their experience at the annual Public Speaking Challenge.*

Economic Club, she was placed directly in a summer internship with Accenture, working in human resources. The experience she received in these internships, in addition to the professional business workshops she attended while in the internship program, all prepared Kamisha for post-graduate success, or as she says *"for working in the real world after college."*

With several internships already under her belt, and an impressive resume, it did not take her long to secure a full time position after her experience with Accenture. Kamisha now works as an Open Source Intelligence researcher at Red Five Security, within the office of Heather Nickerson - a devoted Economic Club member that mentors and supports other scholars. In her position, Kamisha uses the internet and open source systems to generate intelligence, security, and information products for clients on security and privacy projects.

*"I can honestly say that I love my job and the people that I work with. Every day I leave work feeling like I've made a difference"*

Like so many members of the Scholars to Leaders community, Kamisha now wants to use her story to encourage other scholars to take advantage of the different education initiatives the Club offers. Through the Alumni Leadership Council, of which she is a member, she hopes to connect with other scholars and help them navigate through life after college. When asked what advice she has for scholars currently looking for a job, she replied:

*"Be open to new experiences, step outside of your comfort zone and always be yourself"*

As for her future goals, Kamisha says she will eventually be going back to school for her master's degree, but for now, she is looking forward to continue growing within her organization and enjoying every second of it.