

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Miss Black Iowa USA and Miss Black Iowa Talented Teen 2011 Are Crowned!

Des Moines, Iowa – December 6, 2010 -- On Sunday, December 5, 2010, the 2011 Miss Black Iowa USA and Miss Black Iowa talented Teen pageant was held in Des Moines at the Iowa Historical Museum Theatre. RayVynn Schauf, a 21 year-old student from Waterloo Iowa was crowned Miss Black Iowa USA 2011. Allia Foley, a 14-year old Des Moines native attending Urbandale High School won the crown of Miss Black Iowa Talented Teen USA 2011. Both young women will represent the state of Iowa at the national Miss Black USA pageants to be held in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 2011. The audience of over 200 fans, friends, and family, along with a staff of over 30 volunteers, enthusiastically cheered and enjoyed the pageantry, entertainment, and competition.

This year's pageant also included, the Parade of Miss Black Iowa USA Princesses. Nine little young ladies, aged 4 – 8 years of age, were "presented" in their adorable white dresses and received a gift bag of goodies along with a real tiara crown. These future Miss Black Iowa and Miss Black Iowa Talented Teen delegates almost stole the show! Most importantly, ALL of the delegates in the MISS and TEEN pageants will be mentors for the Princesses throughout 2011, building friendships and helping these little young ladies develop and grow into Queens one day!

The 2011 pageant event was hosted by Bankers Trust Senior Vice-President, Renee Hardman. Bankers Trust was the 2011 pageant lead sponsor. Additional sponsors included Wells Fargo and Creative Visions, as well as locally owned businesses like Launchpad Entertainment, Zumi's, and Fat Tuesdays.

Debra A. Carr, Founder and Director of the Miss Black Iowa USA organization was pleased with the success of this year's pageant. "We are very happy for RayVynn and Allia, two outstanding and beautiful young African-American ladies who have depth, talent, who will show the nation, that Iowa has the BEST. All of our delegates this year did an amazing job and we are thankful to our sponsors, volunteers, and staff for their contributions to another successful pageant. The legacy continues!"

As all of the celebrity unfolded after her crowning, RayVynn Schauf, handled it all with grace and a smile. She looks forward to wearing the crown and using it to help others. RayVynn says, "My platform will be to help those who have a parent incarcerated (like my mother is) keep their hopes up and receive the support they need. I grew up being raised by a loving single father, as my Mom was imprisoned. I had her love but not her presence.



Allia Foley (left), 14, from Des Moines is Miss Black Iowa Talented Teen 2011 and RayVynn Schauf (right), 21, from Waterloo, IA is Miss Black Iowa

As Miss Black Iowa USA, I want to help young people who share this story with me, receive the support and love they need to be whole, ambitious, and happy individuals, despite their unique family situation. I am so excited and blessed to have this opportunity to be Miss Black Iowa USA 2011 and I thank God for this blessing. I look forward to growing personally while serving others as I work hard to make Iowa proud!”

Ms. Allia Foley, a ninth-grader at Urbandale High School, took home the crown of MissBlack Iowa Talented Teen. Her enchanting smile, poise, and incredible talent impressed the judges. Not only that, Allia won several special awards. She was awarded the Dr. Mary Ann Spicer award for Academic Achievement (she is on her high school honor roll) and she was also awarded the Veola Perry Award for Community Service. Allia volunteers with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Additionally, Allia won the People’s Choice award for the Teen pageant because she received more cash votes than her competitor did. “I’m just so happy and thrilled to have the title. I can’t wait to get to work during my reign and I look forward to representing Iowa, showing the nation our treasures here, and having a great time serving as Miss Black Iowa Talented Teen!”

The national competition in Washington D.C., is key but only part of their new-found responsibilities and obligations. Throughout 2011, the winners will get involved in serving their local and statewide communities, inspiring our young African-American youth, and giving back

ABOUT MISS BLACK IOWA USA

Miss Black Iowa USA exists to provide a forum for African American women to showcase their knowledge and talent on a local and state platform while promoting education, public service, health and wellness, and improving the financial stability of the African American community. The organization develops women who are educated, self-disciplined, empowered, and who serve as positive role models and community and State ambassadors.

For more information, visit www.missblackiowausa.org

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