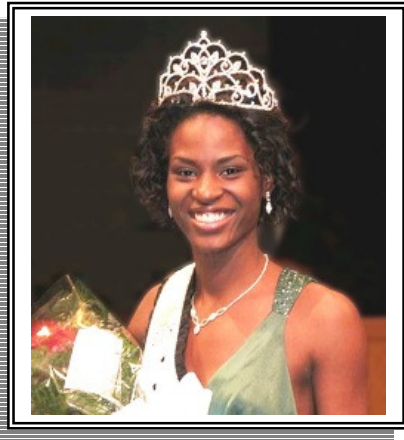


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PRESS RELEASE
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The 2008 Miss Black Iowa USA Pageant Shines Evette M. Fantroy, Waterloo Native, Crowned 2008 Queen!

All her life she was told if you can dream it, you can achieve it. Evette Michelle Fantroy's dream came true on Saturday, November 3, 2007 when she was crowned "Miss Black Iowa USA 2007". The standing-room only event was held at the Grand View College Theatre in Des Moines, Iowa. It was a night I will never forget, says Fantroy after winning the coveted title. Before the crowning, seven of Iowa's most talented, intelligent and beautiful young African American women graced the stage with their beauty, poise, and talent before a sell-out crowd. Fantroy received a standing ovation for her performance of "I Am Me" an original dramatic poem and dance interpretation. She modeled a beautiful emerald green evening gown during the Evening Gown Competition and led the competition in every area. Debra Carr, founder of the Miss Black Iowa USA Organization and native of Waterloo, Iowa, adds, "I am so proud and impressed with all seven delegates. Each one of them are very accomplished positive young role models. They all leave the experience as winners and are shining examples of the outstanding contributions made by young African American women." The diverse audience of nearly 200 folks attended from all corners of the state, including a large delegation of teen girls from Fort Dodge, Iowa.



Evette Fantroy is a 22 year old graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa pursuing a Masters degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology. Evette plans to launch her "BEAUTY" Initiative, a self-esteem program for young African American women as her state and national platform. The winner's prize package includes a fur jacket, digital camera, jewelry, clothing, a professional photo session, and representation from Copeland Creative Talent, plus much more. The greatest gift of all, however, may well be the opportunity to represent Iowa in the 2008 Miss Black USA Pageant to be held in June 2008 and compete for additional cash, prizes, and scholarships.

Kira Ashby, a senior at Iowa State University was 1st runner-up and Briana Byrd, a sophomore at University of Iowa was 2nd runner-up.

To recognize the contributions of outstanding women in the African American Community, several special awards were given out to delegates who excelled in leadership, service, and scholarship:

- Sharisheka LaMay, a freshman at University of Northern Iowa, was awarded the Dr. Lynette Danley Academic Achievement Award of \$400.00, of which \$200.00 provided by the Principal Financial Group and \$200.00 provided by Dr. Lynette Danley.
- Deidre Howard, a junior at Drake University, was awarded the Lynda Walker-Webster Community Service Award of \$400.00, of which \$200.00 provided by the Principal Financial Group and \$200.00 provided by the Miss Black Iowa USA Organization.
- Briana R Bryd, a junior at the University of Iowa, received the highest recognition, the Catherine Williams Award, which comes with a \$700.00 scholarship award, of which \$500.00 provided by Catherine Williams and \$200.00 provided by the Miss Black Iowa USA Organization.
- Finally, Kira Ashby was recognized with a "Spirit Award" for displaying such kindness, good spirit, friendship, and encouragement to the other delegates.

The delegates, ranging in age from 17 to 22 and from high school to graduate school, competed in the following categories:

- Personal Interview
- Personal Fitness
- Talent
- Evening Gown
- Question & Answer (on stage)

If you'd like to book Miss Black Iowa USA 2008, Evette Fantroy for your special event please call 515-830-1622 and leave a message or send an email to Debra Carr, Miss Black Iowa USA Founder, at missblackiowa@aol.com. Miss Black Iowa USA Organization is currently seeking sponsors for the 2008 state pageant.

About Miss Black Iowa USA

The Miss Black Iowa USA organization exists to provide a forum for African American women to showcase their knowledge and talent on a local and state platform while promoting education and public service. The organization develops women who are educated, self-disciplined, empowered, and who serve as positive role models. Founded in 1987 by Debra Carr, The Miss Black Iowa USA organization celebrates strong, committed women of color. By developing African American women today, we strengthen our collective tomorrows. The Miss Black USA Pageant and Scholarship Foundation is recognized as a 501C3 charitable organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

For contact or more information, visit our website, www.missblackiowausa.org