

Tosha Turner ...Aurora University Student

I really enjoyed the presentation that you gave at my school. For that being the first time speaking at Aurora University, you have connected with me on a personal level and I am sure with others as well. You have not only related to me as an individual, but you have made so much sense in the everyday issues that may bring a person down. You did not know me personally, and yet everything you spoke about I could easily relate to. Your presentation has allowed me to grow as a person and make wise choices about my life. My favorite part of the presentation was toward the end when we stood in the circle and closed our eyes. As we stood there with our eyes close, you began to speak of about whatever we were going through could be fixed, it's alright and it's never too late to make the right choices. Once we opened our eyes everyone in the room were in tears. Just the fact that everyone immediately started to comfort others surprised me. In the mist of everything that was going on, no one judged the next person and at that moment most of us found a common ground among each other. I remember and often practice what I learned that day. I apply your advice to my everyday life and my interactions with my Ladies of Arise. There are always conversations that arise where one of my ladies might be facing a tough time and the first thing I say is "Remember what Val said". Whether my advice pertained to relationships, school, or family issues, I always refer back to what I learned from you. I learned that education and opportunity is a key to success and as long as you have those you can get anywhere you want. Since your presentation, I have seen a dramatic change in many of my ladies character. This experience was an honor to have you come out and speak. I would love for you to come back and impact the lives of more young women at Aurora University. I can truly say that your words were real, kind, and very inspirational to me and everyone who attended.