



## Kimberly G. Jackson, Esq.

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## My Story

Originally from Chicago, Kim was raised by a Baptist minister who ingrained a sense of giving in her as a young child. She grew up in a privileged space for African Americans where she was raised to give back to the community that had given her so much. Her grandfather used to tell her, "you stand on the shoulders of giants and the price you pay is giving back to the next generation." So it was a sense of commitment to community in her household that sparked her inspiration to give back. There were though, some events that did influence the spheres in which Kim has focused her philanthropic energy.

Kim moved to St. Pete in 1997 where she practiced trial law locally and gained a passion for non-profit advocacy with family-oriented agencies. She transitioned from her legal career to education, at St. Petersburg College, after her daughter was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome. Her journey at St. Petersburg College was largely based on her commitment to equity. Kim thought that her ability to navigate the challenges of raising a child with a disability would be easier because of her economic and social position, but she found that wasn't the case. This eye opening experience encouraged Kim to delve into work creating access and equity, not just by advocating for families who have minors with cognitive disabilities, but also for all groups in the community that need access, information and opportunity, including African Americans and underserved children.

# Kimberly G. Jackson, Esq.

Attorney, political analyst, and thought leader, Kimberly has devoted her career to education, community leadership, and advocating for families who have minors with cognitive disability.

### Executive Director

The Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions (ISPS)  
St. Petersburg College

The Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions (ISPS) at St. Petersburg College is a think tank that aims to **ENHANCE** understanding, **EDUCATE** students and citizens, and **ENGAGE** conversation in support of effective, solution-oriented public policy. Housed on SPC's Seminole Campus, ISPS provides a forum to explore local, state, national, and international issues. Through her position at ISPS she works to promote student engagement, enhance civic and community involvement, facilitate a center for public discourse and identify economic initiatives.

Kim has gone "above and beyond" to help others by using her time to give back to so many organizations in our community that directly impact the lives of underserved St. Pete residents. Kim has integrated herself with many people among different races, religions, and economic status, and is comfortable in sharing who she is as a person and being open to hearing someone else's story. Because of this, members in our community trust her to advocate for them and she is able to put the needs of the community in front of the people who can make real change. She is the person in the room that is not afraid to have hard conversations if it means growth for her community and she uses her access to create positive outcomes! Her involvement as not only a member, but a leader, in many community organizations shows that when Kim is called to duty she always shows up for those who need her.

When asked what legacy Kim wants to leave through her community involvement her response is, "**I want St. Pete to be better off than when I got here.**" She says, "I want to know that my daughter won't be looked at strangely, and won't be judged for being a woman, a woman of color and with a disability. She won't be judged by exterior limitation." She wants to make a more equitable and just future for her community by breaking down meaningless artificial barriers. She wants to create more economic access for the underserved members in her community. For Kim her community involvement will result in more equity, more accessibility, more understanding and more acceptances.

## Community Engagement and Volunteering

**"I believe that stronger communities make stronger people."**

Through this belief, Kim has made a constant commitment to equity and access for underserved populations in St. Petersburg by facilitating meaningful and sustainable collations through educational programming, fundraising, and board appointments. Kim is a strong communicator, organizational leader, and speaker who has developed platforms to facilitate conversations on issues that impact community wellness, like family health and development, mental health, housing in-equity, and overall lack of resources.

### Board of Trustees

Academy Prep Center of St. Petersburg  
City of St. Petersburg Public Arts Committee  
Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates, Inc.  
Florida Civic Advance  
Florida Economic Council  
Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services  
St. Petersburg Arts Alliance  
St. Petersburg Free Clinic  
St. Petersburg Chapter of the YMCA

### Volunteer Work

Leadership St. Pete  
Class of 2004  
St. Petersburg Chapter of the Link, Inc  
Jack and Jill Inc.  
Delta Sigma Theta Inc.  
Junior League of St. Petersburg

## Awards and Honors

**John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award Recipient**

**Faculty Award - St. Petersburg College**

**Speaker - Discovery Day - Clearwater Campus**

**Speaker - Narrowing the Gulf - EPI Campus**

**Speaker - All College Day - Clearwater Campus**

**CETL - Professional Grant 2nd Annual Autism Conference**

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**79 People Who Made Big Career Moves in 2019**

**Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum**

**"First Lady in African American History" Honoree**

**Keynote Address Speaker**

**Mac J. Williams Excellence Awards**

**Greater Mt Zion AME, FL**

**Black History Month Committee Honoree**

**Tampa Bay Lightning Community Hero**

**Academy Prep Fabulous Female Leader**

**25th Annual Mary Evertz Distinguished service award**

## Public Speaking Engagements

### 2020

Mac J. Williams Excellence Awards  
Keynote Address Speaker

### 2021

Academy Prep Commencement Address  
Florida Economic Club Tampa Bay  
Rotary Club-New Port Richey  
CEOs Unplugged Lunch Series | Seminole Chamber of Commerce  
St. Pete Free Clinic's Talkback  
Academy Prep Breakfast for Scholars  
SPC Discovery Day

### 2022

Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' FACDL  
WSLR's Town Talk Tampa Bay with Sharon Preston-Folta  
Kiwans Club of St. Petersburg  
Legacy-56 Sankofa Symposium  
Special Work Session of the Clearwater City Council-Strategic Plan  
Beneath the Surface- Community Conversations, Democracy  
Academy Prep Breakfast for Scholars

## Positive Outcomes

### Mayoral Internship Program

Kim has created positive outcomes for many individuals and families in St. Petersburg, but one outcome she is most proud of is the internship program with the mayor's office she helped to establish. Through her efforts to create access and equity in the community Kim was able to facilitate an internship program at the mayor's office, under the educational arm of St. Pete College, for students who had criminal backgrounds. Kim explained that some of the students who enrolled in the program had never even been to their city council; some had never left South St. Pete. Over 4 years, 3-5 interns a year, worked with Leah McRae, the Director of Education and Community Engagement for the City of St. Pete. This program gave these students access and greater understanding of their local government; it also showed them that a prior record was not the end of their journey.

### As an Educator at St. Pete College

Kim helped students develop and helped them grow into contributing members in our society. "Professor Jackson is very understanding, and she's very caring. She took so much time to understand where I came from, and how hard it was for me in the program itself. She just really took the time to understand my needs, and she did not give up on me; she just really pushed me to do my best," said Tameika Johnson, a former student of Kim's.

## In the Press

[Academy Prep's Virtual](#)

[Learning Success](#)

[Video Feature](#)

[St. Pete Catalyst](#)

[Kimberly G. Jackson:](#)

[Modeling community conversations for social change](#)

[Lightning Community Hero](#)

[Video Feature](#)

[The Weekly Challenger :](#)

[The Woodson Museum celebrates Black women](#)