



TANESHA JOHNSON

Youth Engagement Officer: Clarion Futures Communities

60 SECOND INTERVIEW

INNER STRENGTH NETWORK INTERVIEW WITH TANESHA JOHNSON, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT OFFICER FOR CLARION FUTURES COMMUNITIES (2019)

The Girls Empowered to Lead team had set questions to ask Tanesha on leadership.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO US GIRLS TO SUCCEED IN LIFE?

Failure does not exist, when you take a knock back don't give up. See it as a lesson, teaching you resilience, building your character and strength. **Everything you do in life, just do it with good and pure intentions and real blessings will follow.**

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BARRIERS IN BUSINESS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS?

I wish that I could say that there were no barriers for us, but sadly there are. There is only so much we can do for ourselves; being hard workers, reliable, strong, ambitious, the list goes on. But along the way we will meet people who do not see passed our gender so try to limit what we can do. Those people are very small minded and its girls like you that will change the culture of women being

overlooked for opportunities just because we are women. They teach us that we should follow behind and wait for opportunities to be given, I say go ahead and create

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR WOMEN TO WORK TOGETHER IN BUSINESS?

It's the most important thing for women in business to work together. Women often get pitted against each other to compete for a seat at the table. That's not necessary because the suggestion that women are unable to work together is a false narrative. If we do not empower each other and support each other no one else will. You want to look at/be looked at as an inspiration to other women. There's nothing better than looking at someone who is doing well and who looks like you and feeling that you can do that too. We are wildly ambitious, but society sometimes makes us feel that we should apologise for it! Don't! By working together and elevating each other nothing is out of reach. We all need to continue being ambitious beyond reason.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER?

The word leader makes us think that we should always be the head and everyone else should just do what we

say. Honestly a true leader is someone who is selfless and not only leads by example but empowers everyone around them to be at their best. A true leader creates leaders and feels great seeing the people around them doing good. Those who make others feel small and insignificant could never be a true leader.

WHAT DOES INNER STRENGTH MEAN TO YOU?

The definition of inner strength to me personally is being able to navigate through hardships in life and coming out the other side for the better. You may leave with emotional cuts and bruises sometimes. But inner strength is really being able to heal and soldier on. When you have inner strength it's the strongest you can ever be, so strong you can help people who are struggling to be strong around you. Loving yourself to the maximum and putting your wellbeing first is vital. Not being afraid to say no or being confident enough to say yes, I will! Being strong does not mean you have to be a mean or bad person. There is so much beauty in our strength as women, it's beautiful enough to create new life.