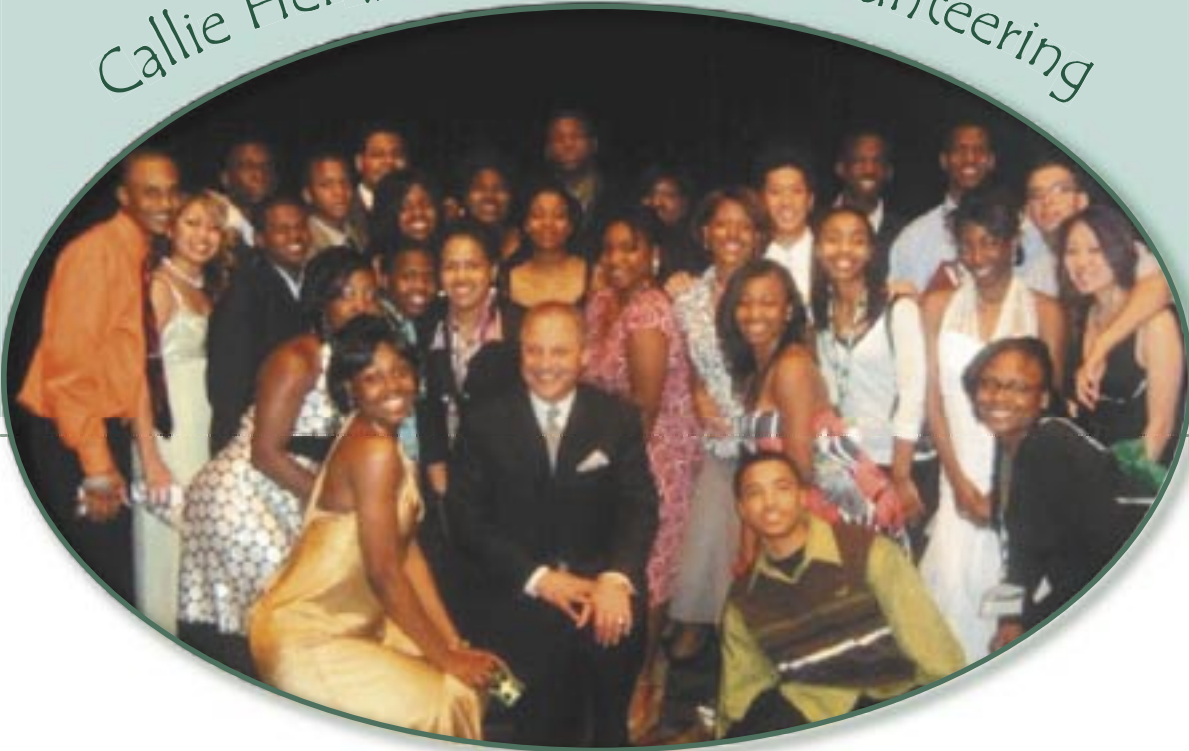


Callie Herd, A Passion for Volunteering



Callie Herd, Senior Programmer Analyst, FedEx Services (left), is the Memphis Coordinator for the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc. (AMHPS). Each year high school and college students attend the 23rd Annual Symposium on Career Opportunities in Biomedical Sciences and Health Professions. Above students are pictured with Dr. John Maulin, President of Morehouse College and past President of the Minority Health Professional Foundation.

Callie Herd's involvement in community service deepened when she found out her mother had cancer in the early 90s. The experience motivated her to seek her purpose in life. She felt her purpose was more than to live to die and she began volunteering with the FedEx Corporate Neighbor Team Art Services. She eventually started volunteering at the National Civil Rights Museum and became the liaison person for FedEx. Shortly afterwards, Callie became the first chairperson of the Civic Affairs Corporate Neighbor Team. Her first major project was the City-Wide Memphis Food Bank Operation Feed Campaign. In promoting the campaign, her goal was to educate the employees on the message that "Hunger Hurts." The campaign was successful: the team and employees raised over 800,000 points, a big difference from a little over 18,000 points the year prior.

Over time, however, Herd's true passion emerged. A believer in the slogan "no child left behind," she felt strongly that all students should have the opportunity to go to college if they want to and that they should also be taught the proper way to prepare. Her volunteer efforts began to focus on preparing high school students and parents for college. She founded and serves as Chairperson of Inspiring Academic Motivation (IAM). The goal of IAM is to assist organizations in building their college preparation infrastructure.

Callie also created and organizes "African American Students Planning and Preparing for College: Why Community Service?" a college preparation program in its sixth year. In 2008 the program was changed to

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"Students Planning and Preparing for College: Why Community Service?" to embrace all students and parents.

Herd created a college preparation blog "Planning & Preparing for College (Scholarships, Internships, Etc)" located at <http://www.ctherd.blogspot.com>. She created the blog with the intention of utilizing the internet to create a college preparation infrastructure platform for sharing information to parents, students, undergraduate, and graduate students. Herd has touched tens of thousands in her quest to promote college preparation, but her hope is that they in turn will pass it on to those needing the information. "The more you help to build people up, the more they will grow and be able to obtain their goals," explains Herd.

Callie tries to promote in her three children that they control their destiny: if they believe in something they should not let anyone deter them from their dreams—life's challenges go to the man or woman who thinks they can. Herd attributes her older son, Ronald, for instilling in her the determination to go for her dreams and never give up on her passion. "I guess you can say it is the young who sometimes provide the wisdom and words to push an older person to the next level," explains Herd.

She told her children early on that she would not be able to personally pay their way through college, but that if they worked with her by doing the best they could academically and became involved in community service, they would get the opportunity to not only attend, but attend the college of their choice. To that end, she involved them early on in their lives in volunteering. The first two of her children attended the college of their choice and together received over \$1,000,000 in scholarships and offers. Herd's youngest son, who has been volunteering since two years old, has an interest in solving the ozone layer problem. Herd states that she "always teaches them that their vision is not my vision and just because I can not see it doesn't mean it won't happen."

In the end, Herd believes that if all of us took the time to learn the true meaning of community service, what an awesome world we would live in.

According to Herd:

"Community service doesn't have a face or color. A person going out of their way to help their fellow man isn't concerned about the people helped becoming more successful than them in life, but rather if their help will make a difference in making the world a better place."

Pictured right: The biomedical group in the Memphis airport returning from the 2006 Annual Symposium held in Houston, TX.

