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Miss america graduation speech

Cierra speaks on her journey of overcoming adversity to reach national success. She shares her 6-year story of overcoming obstacles to reach what she calls her "God Year", a period in her life where she worked in Congress & the Obama White House, won Miss District of Columbia, competed for Miss America, trended on line for being the first woman to compete at Miss America with an Afro & her story as a military Child was featured in Michelle Obama & Dr. Jill Biden's "Joining Forces" Campaign. Cierra wants to see even more women run for political office and win. Women are courageous, strong, intelligent and powerful beyond belief and she wants to empower every woman to see that within themselves. As a Spelman College & Women's Campaign School at Yale University graduate (which are both women's colleges), Cierra recognizes the value of women leading in our world. Having worked on the statewide campaigns of Stacey Abrams & Michelle Nunn, she is invested in building the path and supporting even more women in their path to run for office. As a former Ambassador for She Should Run & Running Start, she is galvanized to offer her skills and talents to non-profits who are ambitious in their efforts to create female politicians. Now, as the founder of It's Her Power, Cierra continues to educate and empower the next generation of female leaders through meaningful conversations, empowering content creation and relationships with community organizations to make a lasting impact. Not only does Cierra empower women, but she empowers men as well, to take on their roles as allies and build a world where everyone is treated equally and fairly. Cierra encourages youth to take action where they are to make a difference in the world. She motivates them to not underestimate themselves because of their age but to embrace their age as unique and use it as an attribute to stand out. Cierra shares her story of growing up in a military family and many of the obstacles she faced from frequent deployments and the lasting effects of war on her family. Her story, which was also shared in People & First Lady Michelle Obama's Joining Forces Campaign, also highlights key lessons of understanding that she hopes to share with other military kids to ease there struggles through the many transitions of military life. As a graduate of the #1 HBCU Spelman College and a 3rd generation HBCU graduate, Cierra aims to highlight the benefits of Historically Black College. As the first woman to compete with and Afro at Miss America, Cierra aims to encourage others to embrace their authenticity and claim their space in the world unapologetically. Cierra after giving a version of her winning "Inspiring Resilience" Speech at the Women to Watch Awards at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC. Cierra after giving a blended version of her winning "Inspiring Resilience" & "Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion" Speeches at the University Of Maryland in College Park, MD. Cierra after giving the "Living Military" Speech at Fort Moody (Valdosta), Fort Benning(Columbus) and other military bases and communities across the state of Georgia. Cierra after giving the "Inspiring Resilience" speech to the Fort Valley Alumni Association & their youth program in Columbus, GA. Cierra leading a class with excerpts of her speech "Encouraging Young Women in Politics & Leadership" encouraging international women to run for office at the Women's Leader Global Forum in Reykjavik, Iceland. Cierra after giving the "Inspiring Resilience" speech to the Congregation & Girls Scouts at People's Congregational United Church of Christ in Washington, DC. Cierra after giving a blended version of her winning "Inspiring Resilience" & "Encouraging Young Women in Politics & Leadership" Speeches at the Women to Watch Awards at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC. Cierra after giving a version of the "Inspiring Resilience" speech to the Motherless Daughters Foundation in Atlanta, GA. Cierra after giving the "Youth Motivation & Activism:Graduating to Life's Next Chapter" speech to the Running Start Graduates at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Deshauna BarberBarber at the 2016 USO Gala in Washington, D.C.Born (1989-12-06) December 6, 1989 (age 32)Columbus, Georgia, U.S.Alma materVirginia State University (BS)University of Maryland University College (MS)OccupationBeauty pageant titleholdermotivational speakerHeight5 ft 9 in (175 cm)Beauty pageant titleholderTitleMiss District of Columbia USA 2016Miss USA 2016Hair colorBlackEye colorBrownMajorcompetition(s)Miss USA 2016(Winner)Miss Universe 2016(Top 9) Deshauna Barber (born December 6, 1989) is an American beauty pageant titleholder, motivational speaker, and captain in the United States Army Reserve. [1] On June 5, 2016, she was crowned Miss USA 2016 by outgoing titleholder Olivia Jordan of Oklahoma.[2] She represented the United States at Miss Universe 2016 where she placed among the top nine finalists. Early life and education Barber was born on December 6, 1989, in Columbus, Georgia, to Darren Barber and Cordelia Barber, both military veterans. She was a military brat, moving due to her father's 20-year military career in the Green Berets to North Carolina, Nebraska, Minnesota, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.[3] Barber joined the United States Army Reserve at age 17.[4] She attended Virginia State University and graduated with a degree in business management.[5] She is a member of the Sigma Gamma Rho sorority.[6] Prior to becoming Miss USA, Barber was commissioned in 2011 and was assigned as a quartermaster officer. She became a logistics commander in the U.S. Army Reserve as a captain,[7] and worked as an IT analyst for the United States Department of Commerce.[8][1][9] She earned her master's degree in management information systems and services from University of Maryland University College.[3] Barber is a member of the Pershing Angels.[10][11] Pageantry Barber throws out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium Barber was crowned Miss District of Columbia USA 2016 on December 19, 2015, by outgoing titleholder Lizzy Olsen. Prior to winning this pageant she had placed in the semi-finalists of the Miss Virginia USA 2010 and Miss District of Columbia USA 2015 pageants and held the Miss Virginia International 2011 title.[10][12][13] On June 5, 2016, Barber competed in the Miss USA 2016 pageant in Las Vegas, Nevada. She went on to win the competition, beating out first runner-up Chelsea Hardin of Hawaii and second runner-up Emanii Davis from Georgia. She was crowned by outgoing Miss USA, Olivia Jordan of Oklahoma. She was the third Miss District of Columbia USA to win the Miss USA title and the first in fourteen years and also the first African American to win the Miss USA title since Crystle Stewart in 2008.[3] She is the ninth African American to win the competition since its founding. Barber was additionally the first member of the military to win the Miss USA title and declared her intentions to promote veterans issues during her reign.[2][14][15] Barber represented the US at Miss Universe 2016 in Manila where she placed in the top nine.[16] During the national costume competition, she wore a superhero-inspired metallic silver costume complete with a helmet and an eagle-crested shield, which stood for women's empowerment.[17] However the wings of her costume failed to open when she was onstage,[18][19] leaving her sheepishly smiling and tugging on the strings for a while.[20][21] After completing her reign, Barber later crowned Kára McCullough, also of the District of Columbia, as her successor at the Miss USA 2017 competition on May 14, 2017 held in Las Vegas.[22][23][24] As of 2020, she is the CEO of Service Women's Action Network (SWAN), an advocacy NGO on women soldiers and veterans. Barber teaches at Howard University.[25] and is also a motivational speaker, focusing on bullying, sexual abuse, and loss, having presented at Google and the Georgetown University[26] and University of Maryland commencement exercises.[27] References ^ a b Chen, Joyce (June 5, 2016). "2016 Miss USA: Miss District of Columbia Deshauna Barber Wins the Crown". US Weekly. ^ a b Kelly, Cara (June 6, 2016). "Miss District of Columbia absolutely nailed her interview question before winning Miss USA". USA Today. Retrieved August 12, 2016. ^ a b c Heil, Emily (June 6, 2016). "Who is Deshauna Barber, the Miss D.C. who won the Miss USA crown?". Washington Post. Retrieved August 19, 2016. ^ Yahr, Emily (June 5, 2016). "Miss D.C., a 26-year-old IT analyst and Army officer, wins the Miss USA pageant". Washington Post. ^ Korsgaard, Sean (June 3, 2016). "VSU grad competes for Miss USA crown". The Progress-Index. ^ Jones, Maya A. (June 10, 2016). 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