

**North Lake College**



**Student of the Year Award**

Mhakeda E.A Shillingford

North Lake College  
Dallas County Community College District  
TJCSGA Region II  
2019-2020

“I may not know what tomorrow holds, but I know what I want and I can’t allow my dreams and passions for the betterment of our community to be diverted by my obstacles. Throughout my life, I’ve always had a passion for my community. My passion for the elderly, the young, my peers, never falters. I pride myself on community inclusion. I am only a product of my surroundings, a product of what my community molded me to be. I’ve always been a servant leader for my community. Now I found a new community to love and cherish as well. I am a servant leader for my college community. They are my priority.” Mhakeda S.

Mhakeda embodies the admirable attributes of a college student. She is dedicated and passionate about the Student Government Association and her presidency term. She strives to be the voice of hope for the voiceless and the force of progress for the quiet. She serves locally, as the Student Government President at North Lake College, guiding her fellow peers to the altitude of leadership they strive for. Regionally, she serves as Awards Co-Chair, organizing meetings, assisting her fellow officers in every way she could without question such as the Parliamentarian with Robert’s Rules. Mhakeda Shillingford has served as the Texas Junior College Student Government Association (TJCSGA) President 2018-2019. Mhakeda Shillingford has served as the Texas Junior College Student Government Association Region II Parliamentarian 2018-2019. She is that one individual we could count on to step up in any situation when needed, and she would always respond, “I am loyal to you North Lake and if you need me to step up, I will make you proud.”

Making us proud, Mhakeda serves as the Junior Supervisor of North Lake College’s Orientation Team. In addition to this strong commitment to SGA, Mhakeda is involved in various other organizations and volunteer projects, servicing campus events and the community

at large. Mhakeda is a determined student, one who upholds the values of academic success, community development, and school pride.

Mhakeda was elected as President of the Student Government Association at North Lake College for the 2019 - 2020 school semester. She also sits as the President for the Club Funding committee for our local SGA. As President, Mhakeda oversees the E-Board team and ensures we are all fulfilling our jobs to the best of our ability within all general and executive meetings. She has worked endlessly to collaborate with DCCCD SGA presidents and college presidents in ensuring we have a strong and well-rounded future moving forward. She has made it a priority to establish a health position in TJCSGA for our district as we evolve. Our SGA has faced hardship throughout the year, she kept us together and helped us remember that we are a team.

As President she exhibits an incredible amount of school pride and school spirit and supporting students as well as fulfilling different goals set out for them. The overall function of the Student Government Association at North Lake College is to serve the needs of all students, embrace and appreciate our diversity. Support and encourage population and organizations as a representative body. "We all come from different cultures, different beliefs, and different walks of life. But here, at Northlake we are a family, which means we function as one," Mhakeda.S

Mhakeda advocated for our event of the year, Faces of Homelessness, which was an event to shed a light on home insecurity among college students. Faces of Homelessness broadened the horizon of active delegates by 65%. Her vision was to let our Blazer students be educated on what home insecurity is and know that we care about them. Although we, as students work hard for a college degree, we should also to enjoy our college experience; have fun, come together and reign. She rallies our students to attend our SGA's meetings and be

involved not only within our college, but also to make our community shine and thrive. Making sure they know SGA is here for them, Mhakeda ensures students feel at home at NLC.

Aside from SGA, Mhakeda is an active member in our honor societies. She serves as a member of Psi Beta and Mu Theta, passionately portraying her love for Math and Psychology. In addition to her honor student background, she served as a membership committee co-chair for Phi Theta Kappa, embodying the hallmarks which stand for: Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship. She strives to motivate her fellow peers to step out their comfort zones and be the stars they truly are. Mhakeda takes her dreams and ambitions to heart, never allowing obstacles to detour her from her goals. Through her academic success she was awarded the Country of Sint Maarten Student Scholarship, to continue her academic journey and portraying her island pride. Throughout the past months she has received 2 awards. For her dedication to the community her peers and academic success she has received the President's award. She also received the outstanding Caribbean leader award.

Mhakeda is also a Peer to Peer advocate on campus. The Peer to Peer Mentor Program focuses on suicide awareness, prevention, and how to reach out to students struggling with difficulties and issues. This program was created, with the aid of NLC SGA, as a system that can surpass the divide of stigmas associated with reaching out to a Counselor or Faculty member when in need. By creating a system of student mentors, other students can feel more comfortable and willing to express themselves. We continue to encourage students to become a Peer to Peer mentor after he attended a Suicide Awareness workshop facilitated by Ms. Dalia Bell, one of the Lead Counselors on campus. Her passion towards the Peer to Peer Advocate Program encourages students throughout campus to get involved and learn more about how they can help.

Mhakeda's involvement for the Student Government Association is instrumental in the community. "It does not matter what, or where, if it is volunteering then I am there. Whether it's setting up tables for an event, or helping less fortunate receive aid at a shelter, I am there to assist." She has volunteered for the Keep Irving Beautiful Trinity Trash Bash, an event where the community gathers to cleanup littered public lands. Not only volunteering at the event itself, at the venue, she delegated tasks to members, allowing each and every one of them to be involved and actively participate.

Mhakeda is also part of the Orientation Team where she guides and educates the new incoming students of North Lake College about the services and resources, providing them with the information and tools necessary for their college success. She motivates our students and inspires eagerness to become active blazers at NLC. She leads a presentation for the students during orientation and because she is a peer mentor, throughout the semester she updates them with different opportunities on campus. After facing a major change in the Orientation department, due to her experience she was placed as the supervising head for her team. She aided the team with all the resources they needed by scheduling orientations, compiling data, and revamping our orientation to be more accessible.

Mhakeda has exhibited her passion for civil rights and community impact through her leadership in North Lake Healthy Lifestyle Squad. Their campaign this year was a scholarship with the nationally renowned Truth initiative. Mhakeda organized their Workshops ensuring there was an established panel of speakers, volunteers, service-learning benefits and course classes' participation. She dedicates a minimum of 5 hours every week to the North lake Truth Campaign; meeting with our president, Dr. Slejko, our Service learning administration and coordinator of student life looking for new ways to impact her college and surrounding

community positively. Mhakeda organized the Truth March that was held; which was to campaign the effects of smoking tobacco. Mhakeda lead the rally for their silent march implementing the importance of our health and safety. The silent march was in memorial for all the lives lost daily by tobacco use.

Mhakeda has collaborated with faculty and Student Life in creating North lake's first ever Unity Walk. The unity walk was in commemoration of Black history Month, with students participating and representing their respective countries. She found and explored the purpose and importance of the unity walk, sharing her passion to the attendees.

Patrol to Eradicate Pedophilia and Child Molestation is a nonprofit foundation that Mhakeda founded. Though out her new life in Texas, her dedication to her island never faltered. She spends hour's weekly, working diligently with her team to protect the youth of her island. "I love my paradise island and I will never be able to stand aside and allow our children to be harmed. It takes a village to raise a child, that is my village and I will protect them. I may be far away, but my heart is bounded," Mhakeda Shillingford. She believes in the safeguarding and mental rehabilitation of their youth. Her team trusts her leadership and they work closely to ensure that all projects and events are successfully carried out. The foundation ranges from education, mental rehabilitation, social issues, legal affairs and legislation.

Though Mhakeda is dedicated to her commitments, she also has a demanding personal life. Having left her island to come to Texas for an education, she needed to fend for herself and her family. She lives alone in Texas but supports her family that's out of state, determined to find her way to an even brighter future. Working over 60 hours a week, at two jobs, she ensures that her house-holds are taken care of. "Though it may be emotionally and mentally tough on me I know why I am here and it will all be worth it in the end." After having to deal with the natural

disaster damaging 90% of the island, she needed to work 10 times harder to ensure her and her family is okay. She faced tough home issues that demanded her time and effort on a daily basis, yet she fought to stay strong for her siblings and keep them grounded.

Mhakeda has competently used her leadership skills and her positive approach to make a difference on campus. She has taken over her responsibilities beyond compare. Her participation on and off campus with many organizations and her impeccable efforts to lead the chapter and display leadership skills, makes her an ideal candidate for the Student of the Year nomination. She demonstrates the most exemplary qualities and dedication a college student can ask for, therefore we, North Lake College, strongly believe that Mhakeda Shillingford deserves the award of Student of the Year not only for Region II, but also TJCSGA as well.

# MHAKEDA E.A SHILLINGFORD

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## OBJECTIVE

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By means of this resume I would like to apply for the position of a Full-time employee. I am adaptable, dedicated, I strive to accomplish every goal set and use obstacles as learning materials for the betterment of my career and my knowledge. I am passionate about leadership and development and I will contribute with persistence and determination.

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## EXPERIENCE

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### Trust Group Inc

- Marketing
- Sales
- Recruitment
- Train and development

### North Lake College Orientation Team

- Mentor
- Train and Development
- Leadership

### Parliament of Sint Maarten

- Executive Personal Assistant

### Department of Legal Affairs and Legislation

- Administration
- Scheduling
- Secretary
- Proof Reading

### Juliana Airport Handlers

- Sales and Service
- Ticketing



- Administration

### **SKILLS/Certifications**

- Computer literate
- Well versed in all area word, excel , access ,power point
- Peer to peer suicide prevention
- Leadership institute Level 1
- Leadership institute Level 2
- Leadership Institute Level 3
- Great organization skill
- Academic and social organizational skills
- Great time Management
- Successfully balanced full time job career with full time academic career including associations and honor societies
- Committed

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### **EDUCATION**

Higher Education.. North Lake College, Current

Associates of Science-biochemistry

Elementary, ~~Browns~~ Millard Campus ,2010

#### **Subjects:**

Math (achieved with distinction)

English (achieved with merit)

Secondary, Sint Maarten academy Academic Section, 2015

#### **Subjects:**

Math (achieved with distinction)

English (achieved with merit)

Dutch (achieved with merit)

Technology (achieved with merit)

Science (achieved with merit)

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## AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Strong leadership qualities

- Psi Beta Psychology Honor Society
- Mu Theta Math Honor Society
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
- President of Texas Junior College Student Government Association
- Parliamentarian of Texas Junior College Student Government Association Region II
- Parliamentarian of Student Government Association (North Lake College)
- Co-chair Sports Committee Student Government Association (North Lake College)
- Vice President of Healthy Lifestyle Squad Truth Campaign (North Lake College)
- Chairman of Awards for Student Government (North Lake College)
- Membership Co-chair of Phi Theta Kappa (Alpha Zeta Eta)
- General Advisor for Sint Maarten Youth Parliament
- Member of Kingdom Youth Parliament
- Member of Blazers Activity Board (North Lake College)
- Founder and President of P.E.P (Patrol to Eradicate Pedophilia)
- President of Sint Maarten Youth Parliament
- Vice President of Sint Maarten Youth Parliament
- President of ~~Savanna~~ Elite Youth Toastmasters Club
- Writer For Beautiful Me Magazine
- Member of the Elite Climate Changers
- Member of the Disciplinary Board for ~~Wolves~~ Basketball Association
- Representative for Sint Maarten at Leadercast-Bravery
- Keynote speaker for Leadercast-Bravery Sint Maarten
- Recipient of the Principals Award at St Maarten Academy
- Recipient of Sint Maarten Outstanding Youth Award

- **Recipient of Most Dedicated to the Community Award**
- **Youngest Recipient of the National Alliance Community Service Award**
- **Nominee for the Leader Worth Following Award (only Nominee in under the age of 40)**
- **Member of Simi Maarten Debate Team**



**Mhakeda Receiving her Presidents Award**



**Mhakeda Shillingford assisting in Keep Irving Beautiful.**



**Mhakeda actively participates in her local SGA board as President at multiple recruitment and fundraising events.**



Mhakeda serves as a Co-Chair of Membership in the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) international honor society. Above is a photo of Mhakeda at an event where multiple PTK chapters embraced the hallmark of fellowship.



Mhakeda is a Peer to Peer advocate which certifies her to be able to assist our students with depression and suicidal tendencies. She owns this badge with pride as it is a symbol to all that she is a beacon of help and support.



Unity Walk



Mhakeda Shillingford assisting police officers in "Coffee with a Cop". An event that allows students to build trust with campus police as they get to personally know one another.



Mhakeda Shillingford receiving her certificate from Ms. Candace Eldridge. She is giving Mhakeda her last certificate as she has completed the final level of Student leadership Institute.



Mhakeda Shillingford is the Vice President of the Healthy Lifestyle Club which has received funding from Truth. We see her in photos above helping to lead an event in memory of those who have died due to 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoking.



Here we see Mhakeda displaying North Lake College pride as a Student Orientation Leader.

Her duties are to help new college students find their way around campus and inform them of all the opportunities community college has to offer.

