

WBA Prestige Reaches Out to Young Women

Four Marquette University alumnae and former members of the women's basketball team, **Tierra Shirley** (Education), **Kiesha Oliver-Hayes** (Communication), **Moya Baylis** (Communication), and **Ebony Gurdy** (Arts & Sciences), are prime examples of what happens when Marquette students put their heads together to reach out to their community.

In 2007, these talented alums founded the Wisconsin Basketball Academy (WBA Prestige). The mission of the WBA is to provide young women (ages 12-15) with quality instruction and fundamental knowledge of basketball through training, development and competition, while instilling values that promote professionalism, respect and dedication on and off the court. The program focuses on the total student/athlete and provides guidance necessary to prepare young women for their high school and collegiate experiences.

Tierra Shirley, who played at Marquette on scholarship, earned the highest GPA on the women's basketball team for five semesters and graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education and Communication Studies.

"One of the elements that we felt would set us apart from other

programs is to implement a tutoring program for our girls," said Tierra, "so we're seeking volunteers to assist in tutoring our players."

When she is not sharing her experiences with the WBA girls, Tierra teaches 1st and 2nd grade students with special needs at Allen Field and attends University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she is working for a Post-baccalaureate degree in Exceptional Education. Tierra is also an intern for Milwaukee Public Schools.



Tierra Shirley

WBA prestige is a non-profit organization that positively influences the lives and development of young players by offering mentoring, coaching, and guidance in basketball, academics, and life. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Tierra Shirley:

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