

My name is Lisa Swift Young. I currently live in Prospect, KY with my husband of 18 years, Antonio and our two children Brandon, 17 and Marissa 14. We attended Canaan Christian Church. I was raised in the Okolona area, where I attended Moore High School. My immediate family consists of my mother, Sandra Faye and father, Odell and two siblings, Anthony (Tony) and Casandra. Upon graduation from Moore High School, I attended the University of Louisville where I received a B.A. in Biology. Following graduation from U of L, I moved to Atlanta, GA and started my career in sales. Over the years, I have worked for several companies and in various sales operations capacities. My resume highlights employment with Fisher Scientific, Playtex Family Products, Procter and Gamble, Pharmacia and currently Novartis Pharmaceuticals. Following the completion of my MBA in 2003, I began my journey into academia. In addition to working for Novartis pharmaceuticals, I am on faculty at Indiana Wesleyan University, Webster University and Northwood University. I teach management and marketing courses in the School of Business. Additionally, I am on the SBDM at Dupont Manual High School and serve on the Education committee at church.

My hobbies include traveling, reading, shopping and spending time with my immediate and extended family. My current goals are pursuing a closer relationship with GOD to understand my purpose and obtaining a doctoral degree in either Organizational Leadership or Organizational Behavior.

I want improve the educational status of African Americans. Dr. Franklin, the new President of Morehouse College, in his book, "Crisis in the Community" details the hard road that African Americans have endured to achieve educational opportunities. He reminds us of the sacrifices that have been made in the pursuit of higher learning. I think that to honor these sacrifices, our community needs to put more emphasis on education. My passion is to improve the persistence rate and graduation rate for African American college students. I would like to develop a program that could be implemented at HBCU's to increase the overall graduation rate to 75%. Currently the rate is approximately 43%. I feel that given the obstacles and challenges that African American students face to reach college, we (as a race) need to remove as many obstacles as we can that inhibit students from matriculating a college degree. Currently 50% of Africans American students drop out of high school, thus the pool of eligible college graduates is greatly reduced. The select students that gain acceptance and secure funding to attend college should be supported by programs that help them achieve a college degree.

I believe that my gift is presenting. I consider this to be significant because a recent study noted that the average American fears speaking in public more than death. I don't have that fear. I consider myself to be a change agent. I like to initiate alternative thought processes. I tend to question routine and think outside the box. During presentations I like to challenge the audience to critique general consensus and popular thought.