



# **Kaleena K. Berryman**

## **Program Coordinator**

---

Born and raised in the city of Newark, Kaleena graduated with honors from Arts High School, as a Television Communications major. After being awarded a Presidential Scholarship to William Paterson University, Kaleena earned a Bachelor's degree in Communication in 2004, with a minor in African American & Caribbean Studies. She served as President of her college's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and founded the first culturally responsive campus monthly publication, entitled UMOJA in 2007. In January 2011, she earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from Rutgers University-Newark.

Currently, she is the Program Coordinator for the Abbott Leadership Institute at Rutgers University-Newark. ALI's mission is to teach education advocacy and family engagement skills to parents, educators, community leaders and students in Newark, NJ. She also serves as the advocacy coach for the institute's Youth Media Symposium, which develops youth leaders by inspiring Newark youth to use the power of their voice and the media to advocate for better schools. In addition to these roles at Rutgers University-Newark, Kaleena currently holds the position of President for the Organization of Black Faculty and Staff on the Newark campus.

In 2013, Kaleena co-founded Newark Circle of Sisters, an organization of women in the city of Newark who provide service scholarships to Newark women at all stages in their advanced education pursuits. NCOS currently has over 1,000 members, and the group is steadily growing.

As a writer of poetry and inspirational blogs, she has reached thousands of parents across the country and the world. After the birth of her son in 2012, Kaleena took up the cause of prematurity awareness, and launched her blog, [www.praying4mypreemie.com](http://www.praying4mypreemie.com), where she helps to empower parents of preemies with support, information and encouragement.