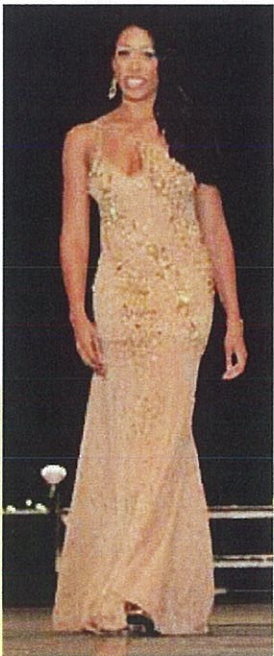


# POPCORN

## *Mackenzie Green* Miss DC USA 2010

*“Is it the girl that makes the crown,  
or the crown that makes the girl?”*

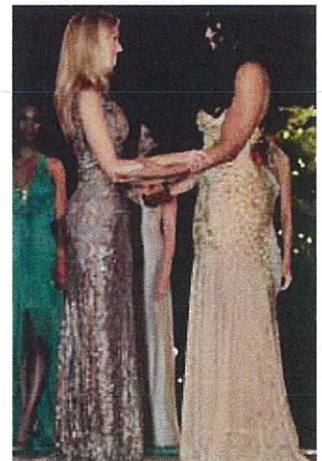


I don't remember much from that night but I do remember my final question, and I do remember the beginning of my answer...“it's the woman that makes the crown.”

I was recently crowned Miss DC USA, and most of that night was a blur. I can't tell you exactly what I said for my answers, I can't tell you too much about the sequence of how I prepared for that day, and I can't really tell you who I saw in that audience that night. But what I do remember is the feeling I had when I stood backstage, how I felt standing in the spotlight, and the joy that filled me when they said I was the new Miss DC.

People have asked me what it feels like to be a beauty queen. It is the most amazing feeling in the world; it's like flying through the air with your arms stretched out on a perfectly sunny day. Because that's what it feels like when you get lucky...because success is nothing more than preparation and opportunity coming together.

I spent a year preparing for Miss DC USA. I spent countless hours working to get ready, pushed myself to keep going when I felt tired, and never lost sight of what I was trying to achieve. And my hard work obviously paid off, and I'm thankful for every moment that I didn't enjoy because it's given me one of my greatest moments.



***My crown makes me a role model.  
As a role model I have some advice that I would like to give:***

**1.** Never let anyone tell you that your dreams are too big. I had never done a pageant in my life when I competed at Miss DC USA, but I always had the dream of wanting to do it. I'm glad that I never let that dream fade away, because it's what drove me everyday, and ultimately, why I am where I am now.

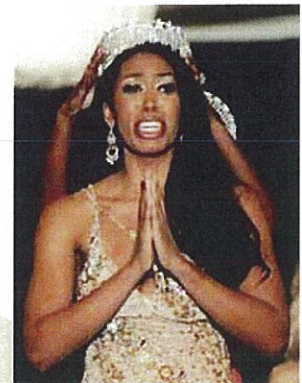
**2.** You can't lose sight of the big picture. If you set a goal, you have to always keep what it is in mind. Because there will be times when you don't feel like working, or waking up early, or a host of other things...but it's all part of a bigger picture.

**3.** Surround yourself with positive people. And I mean really positive people, the kind of people that love you unconditionally, and will support your dreams even when you aren't sure of yourself.



**4.** Never let anyone steal your joy. My grandparents always said this, and my parents have always said it to me. Never let anyone else take your happiness from you, because there will always be someone who will try and bring you down when you are at your highest point. But if you always keep your joy close to your heart...it's like a shield, no one can hurt you.

**5.** Be thankful for everything, even your setbacks. I really do believe that everything happens



for a reason. And one thing that I believe from my crowning is that everything, both good and bad, all happened to get me to Miss DC USA.

I'm thankful that I have the opportunity I do now. And I hope that all of you young women and men that read this know that I became Miss DC USA so I could inspire you all to follow your dreams.

If you ever need someone to talk to about anything feel free to email me, because I'm here for you: [mackenzieann.green@gmail.com](mailto:mackenzieann.green@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
MacKenzie Green  
Miss DC USA 2010