

## 'Hard Work' pays off for North Houston Early College High School students

Written by Admin

Wednesday, 19 June 2013 13:34

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Ms. Jasmine Denise Vaughn, out of 5000 candidates, was selected as the July 2013 Billboard Bride for the Houston Bridal Extravaganza. It's the largest in the country being held at the George R. Brown on July 20-21, 2013.

Jasmine is a native Houstonian graduating number 3 in her class from Westbury High School and Summa Cum Laude from Texas Southern University, after Hurricane Katrina returned her from Louisiana's Xavier University. After graduation in 2009, she joined Teach For America, which relocated her to Atlanta, GA, where she met her future husband, Nigil Mi-Cal Smith Sr. Mr. Smith is also an educator in Atlanta. After her 2 year TFA teaching core, Jasmine returned to Houston and is completing her 3rd year teaching 5th grade at McNamara Elementary School in HISD. Jasmine's parents are Dr. Roslyn Stiles Vaughn, principal in HISD (the apple doesn't fall far from the tree), and Rev. Warren D. Vaughn of Houston, TX. Jasmine is also the granddaughter of Col. Roger C. Stiles, Jr., Ret., a long standing Second Baptist Church Member.

Jasmine not only wants to instill a love of reading and learning in her students, but also emphasize self-worth, value, and confidence in themselves. As the billboard bride, she wants to portray dignity, style, grace, and yes, the sassy, fun side of being a bride. She wants to dispel the TV/media bridezilla perceptions of the world. "This is one of the single most memorable, blissful times of a bride's life," says Jasmine. It's a princess's dream coming to life." She wants students to know that ANYTHING is possible, and to follow their dreams, no matter what. Dare to be the "FIRST."

Ms. Vaughn was riding on a school bus taking her students on a field trip to the Johnson Space Center, when she first saw her face on a billboard. The students started shouting, "Ms. Vaughn. Ms. Vaughn!" She didn't even know they were up yet. "It was pretty cool," said Ms. Vaughn. In addition to the many billboards, Jasmine has also been featured in several magazines, HISD

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News, advertisements, etc. Although the billboard brides don't receive any monetary compensation, gifts or amenities, some people feel Jasmine should have had some help with her wedding. Jasmine's response is, "Although, it would have been very beneficial and much needed with the unbelievably high cost of weddings, that's my face up on the billboards, Facebook ads, and advertisement. I feel blessed to have been chosen, and especially to be the FIRST African American. This too is a Princess's dream come true." Most people who know Jasmine will tell you that she is just as beautiful on the inside, as she is on the outside.

Thousands of brides, grooms, mothers of the bride, bridal parties and wedding planners will come out to meet over 400 vendors, and will get to meet Jasmine Vaughn, Bridal Extravaganza's new FIRST African American Billboard Bride on July 20-21, 2013, at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Jasmine's actual wedding is July 18, 2013, at Tuscany Villa, Katy TX. After the Extravaganza, Jasmine and Nigil will spend their honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico, and then start their new life together in Atlanta, GA.