



## **ShePower 2017 She Educates Award Honoree**

### **Addonica Stanley**

Educator

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#### **ADDONICA STANLEY**

Addonica was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is the eldest of two children and states that being the first born in the Bradley family whether you are male or female has many responsibilities. Being a leader and taking charge started at an early age. Growing up with an overbearing father and a caring supportive mother who nurtured and stressed the value of being grounded in Christ provided the perfect balance for fostering the strong woman she is today.

While attending college Addonica met the love of her life of eighteen years, Nick Stanley. She was smitten by his wit and love for Christ. Together they have two beautiful and gifted children. Noah Stanley, who is a Freshman at San Diego State University and is studying Mechanical Engineering and Zuni Stanley who is in the seventh grade. Her family has lived in Bakersfield for over seventeen years. Many have identified Nick and Addonica Stanley as "The Power Couple" as both are noted and recognized for their accomplishments and visibility in community. Addonica and her husband Nick give all honor and Glory to God for their marriage, Children and Careers. They have been members of Vessels of Honor Ministries for the past 10 years.

Addonica has become an integral part of the Bakersfield community as an Educational Leader who recognizes the challenges of our youth to become educated, resilient and successful. As a teacher and a leader in education, Addonica lead the charge to provide a program for Junior High School girls that focus on building self-esteem, conflict resolution, developing coping skills and making choices that lead to success. Many of the struggles our female students face today, Addonica has personally experienced and overcame. When she is counseling at-risk girls, she spares no details. She is honest and forthcoming about her own experiences. The Bridges program is still serving students today at Compton Junior High. Addonica received her Bachelors degree in Biological Sciences from Grambling State University and a Masters of Education in

Organizational Management from the University of Laverne. She started her teaching career in Bakersfield in 2000 as GATE English Language Arts teacher, as this was the only position available and the hiring principal stated that she wanted her on the team. Addonica accepted the position with the promise that she would have a Science position the following year. In 2010 Addonica accepted the position of Academic Program Leader at Washington Middle School and two years later she became the Dean of Students at Owens Primary. In 2013, Addonica was featured in the Bakersfield Life Magazine as a Woman who Leads. Currently, she is the Principal at Bessie Owens Intermediate School where she encourages students to fulfill their potential. "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure" and "that we were all born to make manifest the Glory of God within us" are quotes adapted from Marianne Williamson that has resonated with her and she shares with her students and others.

Addonica's passion for children in the community and a desire to have resources to support various organizations gave birth to her business endeavor Divine Magnolia.

She makes and sells the best Louisiana Pecan Candy or Famously known as Pralines right here in Bakersfield. She uses the profits to give back to the Bakersfield community. Besides making donations, she spends time teaching students how to unplug. Divine Magnolia's Imagination Unplugged events, gives students the opportunity to take part in games and activities that require no digital devices. Students learn to make and play games such as Cat's Cradle, Chinese Jump Rope, jacks, marbles, learn childhood rhymes and more. Students receive a talk on the importance of building social skills and getting outside and playing. Every child receives a collection of activities to take home and invite others in imaginative play.

Addonica considers herself a Servant Leader. She uses her time and energy educating youth and leading. Her philosophy of teaching and leading has evolved over the years and can be summarized in this simple quote by Salome Thomas-El, "When you love someone, you can teach him or her anything". She believes that the heart is at the core of education and if one's heart is not in it, they should not be in education.



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