

Shawntelle L. Fisher is a highly anointed and very influential leader, speaker, teacher, and dancer who serves with excellence and integrity. Shawntelle became a mother at age 15 and a convicted felon at age 17. After going to prison seven times, she made a decision to allow God to transform her into the person He had created her to be. This transformation led her back to college and to start The SoulFisher Ministries, a non-profit she now leads under the direction of her amazing Board of Directors.

Shawntelle holds both a Bachelor in Educational Studies and a B.S. in Media Studies from the University of Missouri St. Louis and dual Master degrees in Social Work and Divinity from Washington University in St. Louis and Eden Theological Seminary, respectively. She is also a Licensed Master Social Worker (LCSW) and a Certified Reciprocal Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CRAADC). Shawntelle currently serves on the St. Louis County Diversion Committee, is a current Board member with the Spirit of St. Louis Women's Fund, and on the Advisory Council for the University of Missouri – St. Louis' Pierre Laclède Society and the National Council of Jewish Women – St. Louis. Shawntelle also serves on the Housing Task Force for the Legal Services Corporation.

She is a 2021 Connections to Success Change Maker awardee, a 2020 graduate of FOCUS Leadership St. Louis, a 2020 recipient of the Gerry and Bob Virgil Ethics of Service award, a 2020 recipient of the St. Louis Business Monthly Wonder Woman award, and a 2020 recipient of the St. Louis Business Journal's Most Influential Business Woman award. Likewise, The SoulFisher Ministries is a 2021 FOCUS St. Louis What's Right with our Region awardee for their work in equity and inclusion.

Since starting The SoulFisher Ministries in 2012 Shawntelle has raised over \$5 million in funding to support their work in the St. Louis community, with the most recent being a \$100,000 United Way grant, a \$500,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant, a \$285,000 U.S. Department of Education grant, a \$100,000 We Raise Foundation grant, and a \$50,000 Lutheran Foundation grant, all to support the organization's programs. Her work in the community allows her to promote academic excellence and social responsibility in the lives of the youth they serve and to empower currently and formerly incarcerated women to take back control of their lives and become contributing taxpayers who give back to their communities in meaningful ways.

Shawntelle not only supports our community through the work of The SoulFisher Ministries, she has done numerous workshops on dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, reentry simulations, and trainings with the Missouri Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Shawntelle has a passion to see lives transformed and restored. Through her own struggles and pitfalls in life she was guided by caring members in the community to a path of restoration and possibilities. Through The SoulFisher Ministries she is spreading hope and empowering youth and formerly incarcerated women, to be positive, productive, and socially responsible members in the community.