

Alumna Honored with a Day in her Name in Buffalo NY

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DSU alumna S. Renee Smith, an image consultant, motivational speaker and author was in for a surprise before she gave the keynote address to a Buffalo, N.Y. crowd during the city's July 17 Kingdom Vision Buffalo event.

Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown asked Ms. Smith to join him at the podium where he proceeded to read a proclamation that named July 17 in the city as "S. Renee Smith Day."

Ms. Smith has increasingly made her mark on the world as a sought-after motivational speaker, and was invited to be the keynote speaker at the event – a non-denomination Christian event designed to strengthen the outreach of local service provided to city residents, to address the challenges of teen pregnancy, homicides and high unemployment, as well as provide a fellowship venue for a diverse gathering.



DSU Alumna S. Renee Smith gives the keynote address at the July 17 Kingdom Vision event in Buffalo, N.Y. and was honored with a day in her name.

Ms. Smith told the thousands gathered in downtown Buffalo's Niagara Square that to make things better in the city, individuals had to take ownership of their lives and to maintain their faith in themselves, each other and their God.

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Ms. Smith said the mayor's proclamation was a complete surprise. "I was truly humbled by it," she said. "It was a blessing to be honored that way."

Mayor Brown's formal proclamation praised her for being the keynote speaker for the event. It also recognized her years at DSU – as a 1988 graduate with a BS in marketing and as a former director of Public Relations – as well as her authorship of her inspirational book *There is More Inside* and her success as a motivational speaker, which the proclamation noted "has inspired audiences across the United States and internationally."

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