

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

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To Whom It May Concern:

It was a privilege to have Kelley Nicole Purcell and Shaunelle Curry perform Shattered Glass at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities for Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 2013. As Director of The Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education, I prioritize three things within my role in higher education: promoting Social Justice, understanding Student Development Growth, and meeting the needs of Sexual and Relationship Violence on college campuses. Kelley and Shaunelle's performance encapsulates a strong social justice theme. It is framed in a unique, artistic way that is educational, honest, and inspirational. It's a different way of telling the story of violence survivors – in a way and perspective that may not often be told – and then allows you to explore the chaos and journey to empowerment if you're willing to be open-minded about the process.

Kelley and Shaunelle also embraced our students after the performance – inviting them into conversation, honoring student stories and reflection, framing the issue of violence and healing in a way that students could relate to and could feel cherished by. Thus, many students after the show wanted to make personal contact with them and they spent ample time asking questions, sharing stories, and thanking the two for their heartfelt message. From a student development perspective, I was surprised at how meaningful "Shattered Glass" was for our audience and how eager our students were to spend time with Kelley and Shaunelle. Given our mid-western culture, showing gratitude and giving accolades is not all so common, so to see the outpour of acceptance from our students to Kelley and Shaunelle was gratifying.

"Shattered Glass" is a different way of telling the story of relationship violence. For those who experienced it or have helped someone through that turmoil, this performance vibrates a chord of honesty and truth. For those who may not have experienced it or may not understand the depth of the issues around relationship violence, it may leave those audience members wondering, asking questions, trying to understand the message.

"Shattered Glass" worked best for us because we had a more intimate setting, which we purposely created. About 75-100 people attended in a cozy, artistic atmosphere. It gave people the space to talk, to question, to process the experience and performance.

Lastly, Kelley and Shaunelle were such gracious and professional people to work with. They dialogued about their inception, creation, planning process with my team of event coordinators. They provided information about their needs and were timely and efficient with their communication. But most importantly, they were authentic and sincere individuals to work with. We surely enjoyed having them on our campus. If you're interested in any other information or have additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 612.626.9977 or via e-mail at eiche035@umn.edu.

Sincerely,

Katie H. Eichele
Director
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