



MEET SHAQUETTA WARE

What is your role at MUSC? How long have you been here?

ShaQuetta is the Administrative Coordinator for the Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). She has worked for MUSC for eight (8) years. She spent four (4) years with Parking Management as a Parking Attendant affording her the opportunity to earn a Bachelors in Human Services degree. She also worked in the College of Dental Medicine in the Dental Faculty Practice as an Administrative Specialist for four (4) years. "I moved into my new role with the Department of DEI in July, and I already love it!"

Was there one thing that sparked your passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion?

Her children. If children see people who look like them in certain positions and careers, chances are they will feel more confident in pursuing different career paths. As a plus-sized black woman, Shaquetta decided to see more individuals who look like herself in top positions/management at MUSC, and she wants her children to see this. When the opportunity to participate in the first cohort of the Building and Retaining Inclusive High-Potential Talent and Excellence amongst underrepresented minorities (BRIHTE) program came along, She asked her previous supervisor if she could apply. The supervisor said, "No, I want to nominate you!" Once accepted into the program, it opened her eyes to a wealth of information. She put a name/term to things that made herself and others like myself feel uncomfortable or out of place through the program. BRIHTE presented her with the tools that are needed to help build a stronger foundation. MUSC is choosing to "Change what's possible," and I want to be a part of the positive change that can and will take place.

If you could give one piece of advice to people who are just learning about diversity, equity, and inclusion work, what would it be?

First, listen and learn! It is not going to happen overnight. Speak to people that are willing to give you good information and feedback when you have questions. The department of DEI is an excellent resource here at MUSC, with several individuals willing to teach those who are ready to learn. Also, keep an open mind and be prepared to release some of the old programmings to make room for new information beneficial to you and your loved ones. Finally, don't be offended if called out; use feedback as a learning experience. Change is a part of living, so why not make positive changes that can enrich our lives and the lives of those around us.