

Bio of Kim Hyde, Doctor of Business Administration: Building the Path

*I will not follow where the path may lead, but
I will go where there is no path, and
I will leave a trail.*

Muriel Strode, 1875-1964

Note: Often attributed to the writer Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803-1882



My journey to entrepreneurship leaves a trail of many crossroads. I envisioned possibilities at each juncture. I have enriched perspectives, glimpsed successes, and learned lessons with each experience. I share my milestones, motivations, and resurging momentum that helped me stay on course.

My innate passion towards entrepreneurship began with my family of business owners. My great-grandmother, owned a café in Chicago 1958. My grandmother owned and operated businesses in cosmetology, professional catering, weddings, and events. My mother grew fresh produce and created a community farmers-garden business. Mom also Co- formed, with my brother, Rashan, *Save The Babies, Inc*, Community Development Center Market in Oakland, California. My special-family of women were my ultimate earth angels, role-models.

Gift baskets anyone? When I felt the need for more spending money in my late teens, I wanted to go beyond the retail sales route many of peers followed. A friend suggesting asking for advice from a successful business woman, which I did. She mentored me and gave me the formula for setting up the gift basket product line I was targeting. Her help covered A to Z: company name, business card, licenses, legalities, product sourcing, negotiating, record keeping, sales, and operations. I benefitted from her advice and tutoring as I ran this business for 2 years, gradually adding sunglasses, scarves, and apparel products. This business template served me well for more ventures that would come along.

Travel ahoy! My entrepreneurial horizons expanded when I chose to major in International Business for my B.A. degree at Holy Names University in Oakland. I wanted to travel to the major cities of the world and support this lifestyle by buying and trading in gemstones. My college counselor gave me the name of a logical businessman whose career had been in jewelry and gems. I met with him and again was the fortunate recipient of a blueprint to achieve my dream. His advice was to go back to school to become a graduate of the Gemological Institute of America in New York City and work my way into the trade from there. During winter break of my senior year in college I travelled to NYC to visit cousins and extended family. That first time in "the City that never sleeps" was dazzling. With my family's blessings I moved to NYC in the summer after I received my Bachelor's degree.

Getting a big

break. Affording the tuition for the 2-year GIA educational program was out of reach. When a friend alerted me to an announcement of a position opening for a technician in the GIA gemstone grading laboratory, I applied and interviewed for the job. After testing and screening I waited anxiously for two weeks before GIA extended the job offer to me. Then followed three months of training while I was on probation for the job before I was securely in the position and eligible for tuition-free education to become a Graduate Gemologist. My association with GIA opened many doors. I also entered a portal into the lives of ultra-affluent individuals, celebrities, and high-end gemstone dealers.

My side hustle. GIA's headquarters at 580 Fifth Avenue was adjacent to the jewelry district along 47th between Fifth and Seventh Avenues. I was a frequent visitor to shops and developed my network which included suppliers to the trade and jewelry designers. When a jewelry store owner gifted me with several thousand dollars in inventory he was off-loading and suggested reselling it at street fairs, I was ready to start my jewelry business. Noticing the emergent trend toward natural objects used in decorative items and jewelry, I had access to a supply of cowrie shells, which I took to a caster who made a mold for the shells in sterling silver. This created my original, unique product and augmented the products I was selling by taking orders and selling at jewelry shows and street festivals. This side hustle validated my ability to read trends, take advantage of unexpected opportunities, and trust in my intuition about business prospects.

Ophelia DeVore and Public Relations. After a couple of years at GIA, I was interested in branching out into other career possibilities. A radio commercial for the Ophelia DeVore "finishing" or "charm" school to learn business etiquette and poise caught my ear. I enrolled and became an enthusiastic advocate. Ophelia DeVore herself attended the graduation of my class. She had become a legend as

Founder of NYC's first African American modeling agency. On seeing my enthusiasm, she invited me to become an instructor in the school, which again extended my network

and led to opportunities to meet prominent people of the time. I worked in her organization for five years in the professional development division as Sales and Marketing Coordinator and Public Relations Specialist. I was at times the face of the business, even appearing on talk shows, which developed my presentation and public speaking talents.

Back to Oakland. After eight years in NYC, I knew the lives of my family and friends in Oakland were moving on. I decided to return, partly motivated by wanting to spend time with my grandmother with whom I lived after I returned. I was also accepted into the MBA program at Holy Names University. In NYC I had met many successful people who led their organizations and were known for the differences they had made. For my MBA studies I chose to concentrate on leadership.

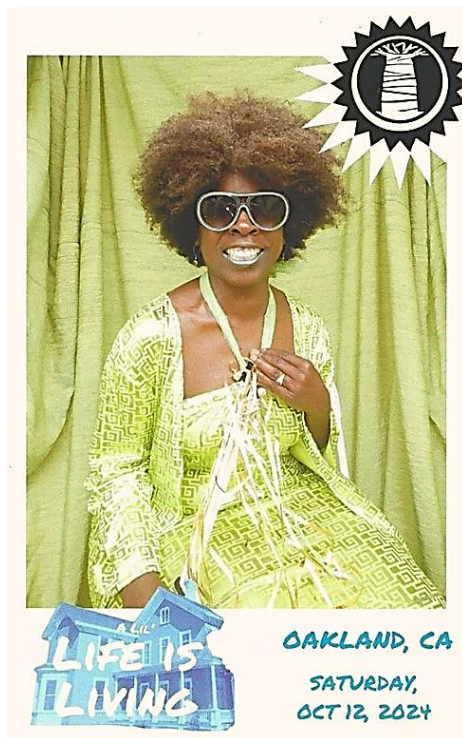
Leading a non-profit. As I reconnected among family, school mates, friends, and community members, I was contacted to help develop an idea that would support youth education. The activity was in the form of a precision drill team and drum corps. I became the Co-Founder and Executive Director of this forming Oakland non-profit organization. We grew, secured funding grants amounting to \$500,000 cumulatively, and served 400 youth during our nine years of operation. Our Board members and volunteers were often chaperones as we traveled to parades and events such as a major announcement at Cisco and the filming of a TV commercial for Coca-Cola. Each previous venture required me to learn new products, services, and markets, but the non-profit required also learning fundraising, legalities, compliance, as well as working with city councils and administrative officers. Record keeping became critical and my leadership abilities were needed daily.

Family time and tax seasons. Mixed in with my Precision Drill Ministries work, I married and started a family.

Temporarily without a career activity, I decided to pursue my doctorate in business, choosing Walden University and its specialization in entrepreneurship. I was taking courses again, this time with deeper perspectives and more experience to balance the textbook content. I pursued the program with intermittent intensity which prolonged the completion of my doctorate. At last. I was cleared to move ahead with my dissertation study, which instigated comprehensive research from many published studies and sources on alternative sources of financing for small businesses. During tax seasons for 3 years, I prepared federal and state tax returns for individuals and self-employed business owners for a nationwide tax service. This work required 60 hours of education in basic tax preparation, and I earned the status of a Registered Federal Tax Preparer.

My new and current venture. When son reached school age, I was eager to participate in new venture activity again, which led to forming Inspire Trade Center (ITC), LLC. I founded ITC as a hub for testing my entrepreneurial ideas and guiding others based on my experience and knowledge. As a research and discovery laboratory, ITC has served my purposes of completing my doctoral study and tapping into trends and events related to crypto currency and tools and technologies in development at Tech and Venture companies. Among concepts modeled was a resource that would train founders in any aspect of business that was missing from their expertise. Several new business ideas have immersed me in due diligence. For a few I have initiated preliminary groundwork and prepared business plans.

Conclusion. My bio represents the synergy of my innate abilities and my nurturing, mentoring, and sound advice arriving at the right time. Insights, education, experience, and perspectives are added as foundational elements that allow me to be a wise adviser capable of guiding others on their path to entrepreneurship.



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Kim Hyde dances at Adeline and Alcatraz streets Sunday during Berkeley's 37th annual Juneteenth festival.

Amaya Edwards/Special to the Chronicle

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UPDATE: A 38-year-old man was fatally shot at a West Oakland park where a large McClymonds High School alumni gathering took place Saturday.



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during the reunion, Kim Hyde, a McClymonds High alumna who helped organize the event, said the gathering ended around 5 p.m. Hyde said she stayed to clean up and heard several “pops” but didn’t see a commotion. She said she believes the shooting occurred near the tennis courts and skate park, away from where the reunion took place.



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