

Erica Austin

Author | Speaker | Social Influencer

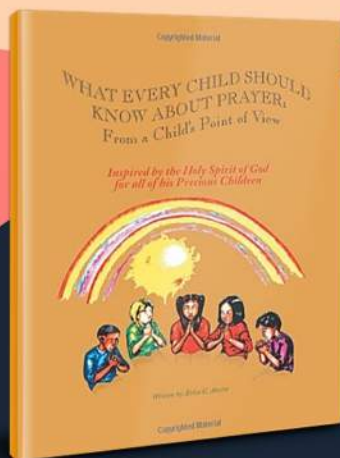
"We must encourage today's youth to reach for their highest potential by pursuing the gifts that God has given them."
- Erica Austin

After much success with her Trumpet Award-winning book, "What Every Child Should Know about Prayer: From a Child's Point of View", published author Erica C. Austin continues to motivate youth by offering practical and clear-cut strategies for self-empowerment through education in life skills and leadership.

Since publishing her first book at the age of nine, the Atlanta native has made it her personal commitment to inspire young people through education and faith. In 2003, Erica launched the Youth on the Move Achievers Book Club, which introduces youth to an alternative, positive side of today's Hip Hop culture. "Time has proven that Hip Hop is here to stay, and it holds the power to promote positive social reform in today's society," Austin says. This young, promising author has garnered many awards and accolades; including the NAACP ACT-SO Award, honors from the National Council of Negro Women's Ecumenical Hall of Fame, participation on the panel for the 1999 Meet the Authors Turner Broadcasting Trumpet Awards, and a place as the featured author at the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 2010 Literary Expo held in Washington, D.C. .

Erica is an Annenberg Honors Program Fellow, member of Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honor Society and the National Association of Professional Women. She is a graduate of the John H. Johnson School of Communications; and earned a Bachelors of Arts Degree, with Summa Cum Laude distinction, from Howard University in Washington, DC. She has earned a Masters degree in Sociology with a certificate in Public Sociology at American University. The Masters Degree program at American University spans from social inequality and justice, to globalization and social change. Erica utilizes this degree to connect scholarship and public policy, highlighting the disparities plaguing minority and working class communities. Furthermore, she serves as a voice that overcomes barriers within local advocacy, policy, and community organizing endeavors through her role as a member of the Board of Directors for City Gate, Inc., a DC-based non-profit that provides a variety of educational programs to low-income families in the District of Columbia.

Erica continues to compel young people to maximize their potential, while utilizing their God-given talents in every aspect of their lives.



What Every Child Should Know About Prayer: From a Child's Point of View-Inspired by the Holy Spirit of God for all of His Precious Children is a blessing inspired by God to encourage every child to have the motivation to pray. This book, written when Erica was 9-years old, is a personal testimony from her childhood about her relationship with God that has touched the hearts of children and their families throughout the nation. The book encourages all children to pray, regardless of their age, race, or living environment; because God loves all of His children, and to also pray for others and thank God daily for his blessings.

Recognition & Awards

- The Atlanta Daily Word Newspaper - "Nine-Year-Old Writes Book About Prayer."
- Turner Broadcasting Trumpet Awards Winner - 1999



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ECRA Growth & Educational Services offers a wide range of services and programs that focus on youth empowerment. The main focus of ECRA is to help young people recognize their ability to create a rewarding and fulfilling life for themselves. To help youth take the initiative to make their lives better. ECRA Growth & Educational Services is a non-profit organization that provides life skills and leadership training to youth. Participation in the programs enables youth to develop confidence, learn life skills, and to recognize their own power, and to make proactive efforts in designing a positive, healthy, and fulfilling life.

As Erica continues to strengthen the brand of ECRA, she recognizes that her and her team are in a unique position to offer quality youth programming that serves as a continual intervention and prevention system to deter youth from aging without gaining the necessary life and professional skills to become productive members of society.



Our Mission

Creativity ECRA Growth & Educational Services wants to inspire youth to be innovative in forming strategies to reach their highest potential.

Confidence: The focus of ECRA is to instill in youth that they are able to make decisions to create a positive future.

Civic Responsibility: ECRA wants to expand the perspective of young people in desiring to find opportunities to make a positive contribution to society.

Support: An individual is dramatically influenced by their support system. ECRA wants to surround young people in a caring, inclusive learning environment.

Philosophy

Our philosophy is based on the concept of helping youth to recognize their own power, and to make proactive efforts in designing a positive, healthy, and fulfilling life. Our organization's objectives include an intentional effort to provide youth with the knowledge on how to create a successful and productive life; and how to make strategic efforts in reaching their goals without procrastination. We believe that by creating a haven for youth to be afforded the opportunity to receive vital life and leadership skills, serves as a catalyst for personal growth and change. In addition, our philosophy believes that our program environment provides a setting free of modern day distractions, simplifies choices, and teaches them valuable life skills. We place a great deal of importance on self-awareness, goal setting, cultural awareness and personal achievement against adversity. Constructive program activities "empower" them, by giving them a sense that they can make a difference in their own lives and in the world.

Top Speaking Topics

- The Importance of Education
- Literacy Matters
- Life and Leadership Skills
- Teamwork Skills
- Youth Empowerment & Inspirational Guidance
- Spiritual Development for Youth

Top Appearances

- Meet the Authors at The Turner Broadcasting Trumpet Awards
- Keynote Speaker - Mt. Zion Baptist Church Annual Youth Prayer Dinner: "Impact: Young Christians Growing Together to Serve Others."
- Featured Author - 3rd Annual African American Children's Book Fair hosted by the Reginald F. Lewis Museum
- Guest Speaker - Reid Temple AME hosted by the Children's Ministry

Through speaking engagements, her book, and her company ECRA, Erica continues to focus on those in need of guidance and empowerment.

To invite
Erica to speak at your
next event, contact:

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