

# Kimberly Matthews

Hi Kimberly, we'd love for you to start by introducing yourself.

I love this story! After I graduated from High School in Greenbelt Maryland, I had no clue what I wanted to do in my adult life. My mother suggest I go to the Beauty School that was within walking distance of our apartment. So that's what I did.

I started my beauty culture training in 1986 and became a licensed cosmetologist 1 year later. During my first few years as a hairstylist, my focus was solely on making as much money as I could as fast as I could. I was 19 years old and had a license to do hair.

At that time nothing else mattered, I had a job and my own money. During the '90s, my experience grew and so did my responsibilities which lead me to salon management opportunities.

Shortly after that, I started working at the Beauty School I graduated from. I took a position as a substitute cosmetology school teacher. After working as a sub for about a year, I was offered a permanent position as a full-time educator. I never took into consideration what it was like to be on the other side of the textbook. Learning is one thing but being an educator and knowing it is your responsibility to make sure all of your students understand the concept is completely different.

No matter their level of comprehension, language barriers, or attention span. It's your job to make sure that get it.

Throughout my journey, I also did the following: Contract make-up artist for Hech Co., Mobile Hair Stylist, and Booth Renter, and I started my Lash Business in my sister's and brother-in-law's basement. Thank Sis!

I realized a few things about myself as I continued working as a licensed beauty professional. I loved the industry and all that it has to offer, and I like being in charge.

In May 2000 & 2001, I gave birth to my 2 sons, Q & A. The birth of my sons motivated me to reevaluate my life and position in the beauty industry. I made the decision to go to school and obtain my Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

During that time, I opened my first business; Born Beautiful Salon renamed and branded Ms. Kim's Beauty Exchange. This is where I am today along with working as a co-teacher within the Montgomery County Public School System.



*Daily Inspiration: Meet Kimberly Matthe*

