

Shelton McElroy

Prior to joining TBP, Shelton worked with Parent Advocacy and Participatory Defense in Louisville, KY, assisting parents in the reunification process with their children and using organizing tools to fight the criminal justice system. As a formerly incarcerated individual who was a ward of the state in foster care for over 15 years, Shelton works daily to dismantle dehumanizing systems of oppression. A 2016 Just Leadership USA fellow and a 2018 BMe Genius award recipient, Shelton holds Masters in Mental Health Counseling and studies Documentary Studies at Duke University. In addition, Shelton hosts scholarship workshops for underserved individuals and has raised over \$100k for emerging scholars.

Shelton T. McElroy has a Master's Degree in Education and Human Development from Lindsey Wilson School of Professional Counseling. He is the Parent Engagement Manager with the Metro United Way of Louisville, Kentucky, where he aids numerous families in developing a pipeline from aspiration, to education, to occupation. Shelton became a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels in 2010. This organization, founded in 1813, provides financial support to Kentucky charitable and educational institutions and organizations.

He has been a featured speaker at numerous conferences and events, and is the recipient of the Kentucky Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (KACRAO) Plenary Speaker Award. Shelton was recently honored by Congressman John Yarmuth (D-KY), founder of Fathers for Fathers, a grassroots organization advocating healthy fatherhood. In addition, he is a Parent Advocate with the Department of Community-Based Services where he assists parents who have come into contact with the child welfare system by advocating and walking them through the reunification process. Shelton's passion and focus is on overcoming obstacles and reunifying families.