



## ScholarCHIPS Staff Bios

Yasmine Arrington  
Executive Director



Yasmine “YazzieSpeaks” Arrington was born and raised in Washington, DC. She is a 2015 graduate from Elon University with a Bachelor of Arts in Strategic Communications and History. Yasmine earned her Master of Divinity degree from the Howard University School of Divinity in May 2018. Yasmine is the author of *Daily Reflections for Social Entrepreneurs Journal*.

In 2010, while a junior in high school, Yasmine founded the non-profit ScholarCHIPS ([www.scholarchipsfund.org](http://www.scholarchipsfund.org)), an organization that provides college scholarships, mentoring and a peer support network to children of incarcerated parents, inspiring them to complete their college education. To date, ScholarCHIPS has awarded over \$300,000 in college scholarships, book awards and graduation gifts to 71 scholars, with 23 graduates to date.

Yasmine has been featured in TeenVogue, Essence, Black Enterprise, Forbes Magazine, The Washington Post, and the Baltimore Times, and on ABC7 News WJLA and NBC4 for her community work with ScholarCHIPS.

Yasmine is a recipient of several awards including the Linowes Leadership Award from the Greater Washington Community Foundation, the Peace First Prize, the DC Social Innovation Prize, Angel Among Us Award by the Negro Council of Women, the Samuel Huntington Public Service Award, the Samuel Halperin Public Service Award, Radio One WKYS Top 30 Under 30, and others.

Yasmine loves interacting with ScholarCHIPS’ scholars, alumni and their families and serving as a near-peer mentor to the organization’s scholars and as an advocate for children of incarcerated parents, incarcerated individuals, and returning citizens. She looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with ScholarCHIPS’ board of directors and staff to expand the capacity and sustainability of ScholarCHIPS to ensure that children with incarcerated parents have the holistic support they need to graduate from college and be successful in life for generations to come. In doing this work, scholar-by-scholar, ScholarCHIPS is breaking down societal systemic barriers that disadvantaged youth often face in pursuing higher education and breaking cycles of poverty and incarceration.

Gwen Hawkins-Bazuaye  
Operations Manager &  
Mentorship Program Coordinator



Ms. Gwendolyn “Gwen” Hawkins-Bazuaye is ScholarCHIPS’ Operations Manager and Mentorship Program Coordinator. Ms. Hawkins-Bazuaye began her Federal and District Government work experience at an early age. She held several positions with the Washington Navy Yard, Smithsonian Institute, National Museum of Fine Art, Natural History Museum, National Credit Union Administration, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, District of Columbia Parks & Recreation, and District of Columbia Public Schools. She held positions in private industry as well.

Ms. Hawkins-Bazuaye specializes in providing business solutions for small to medium companies or businesses in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Her areas of expertise include financial management, procurement and budget practices and processes; contract administration; executive management for day-to-day operations; policy planning and evaluation; program development; administrative reporting systems; work flow analysis; and, systems evaluation and methodology.

Ms. Hawkins-Bazuaye holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration and Business Management from the University of Phoenix, Columbia Maryland. She also attended Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Maryland for her Bachelor’s Degree.

Ms. Hawkins-Bazuaye is a native Washingtonian, educated in the District of Columbia Public School System, and resides in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Ms. Hawkins-Bazuaye amassed over forty years of public service. She looks forward to contributing her skills and expertise on the ScholarCHIPS team to enhance the services and support the organization provides to its scholars in order to enhance scholars’ collegiate experience.