

# KRISTI MERRIWEATHER

Kristi Merriweather is an educator and Deaf Learning Specialist by profession, working for a mainstreamed public school. Deaf since age 2, she was a prolific reader who attended schools under Atlanta Public Schools from elementary to high school. She is a graduate of Spelman, Howard, and Georgia State University with degrees in psychology and Deaf Education.

This Georgian native can be said to be a content creator or “word artist”- having produced poetry and original scripts/skits for plays and localized events. A few of her poems have been published in Deaf American Poetry: An Anthology. Her creativity extends beyond the written word- as a developing self-taught artist, she enjoys creative interior decorating and experimenting with multimedia art works for personal home/ classroom displays. She also is a professional presenter, having presented at various events including World Federation of the Deaf and NTID’s ARTiculating Deaf Experiences Conference.

She wrote a script for two historical documentaries- one on the Gallaudet 2006 protest that was produced with support from Atlanta Area School for the Deaf and one that is being filmed at this time on experiences of BlackDeaf alumni of Georgia School of the Deaf during the eras of segregation and transition into desegregation. Her next creative projects will include writing a workbook for students then a variety of nonfiction and fiction.

She believes in the value of community service, having been involved in various projects as a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a committee member and officer of a BlackDeaf organization on local and national level, a consultant on Deaf issues for Stacey Abrams’s governor campaign, the current secretary of Georgia Association of the Deaf, and as a co-founding member of soon-to-be-established BlackDeaf organization. With her Capricorn Sun, Aries Moon, and Cancer Ascendant, all cardinal signs and the numerology profile of 1, she enjoys being involved with starting things that seems to be "missing". A few most notable achievements with her community service involved having been the first to name and operate a national youth program (still in existence twenty-two years later) for BlackDeaf teenagers for National Black Deaf Advocates and making the suggestion to Black Deaf Student Union of Gallaudet to push for the establishment of a Black Deaf Studies course (still in existence and growing into a Center twenty- later).