



**Samantha Paige Davis** is an advocate, trainer, speaker, mentor, and unyielding optimist. She believes that everyone has the innate ability to succeed, but they must be given the opportunity to do so. When she was just 25, Samantha founded The Black Swan Academy (BSA), non-profit organization that is creating pipeline to civic leadership for Black youth who are committed to improving themselves, their communities, and the world around them. BSA's youth-led advocacy work focuses on intra-community violence, police violence and education reform.

In 2019, Samantha started the Sam & Tamara Davis Family Scholarship Fund with her siblings to support graduating high school seniors in her hometown, Pittsburgh who have a parent with a mental or physical disability and/or who were raised in a single adult household. She currently serves on the Black Women & Girls Advocacy Taskforce and the Self Development of People national committee of Presbyterian Church USA.

Samantha is an organizer at heart and she formerly served as the field engagement manager for YWCA USA. She has developed a robust state-level advocacy initiative in which she trained 30 associations to create and carry out their own advocacy agendas. In this role, Samantha also mobilized over 200 associations around issues of racial justice and women's empowerment. Her leadership on a number of city-wide coalitions and as the former senior advocacy and community specialist of SOME (So Others Might Eat), has resulted in legislative and budgetary improvements for a variety of support programs including SNAP (food stamps) and affordable housing.

For Samantha, service is a cornerstone of civic participation and she models this through both volunteerism and philanthropy in her own community. She volunteers with the Greater Washington Urban League and supports a variety of causes. Samantha's work has been recognized by American University, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington, Brightest Young Things, and the National Urban League.

In addition to her professional and volunteer work, Samantha finds the time to dance, run, worship, and support her friends and family. In the face of challenging work, racial injustice, and those who tell her she can't, Samantha is committed to finding a path forward and a reason to smile. Samantha has her Master in Public Policy from American University.