

## Ashley McCray

Ashley McCray is a Chemical Engineer, non – profit leader, Motivational Speaker, consultant and Public Servant. She is a Research and Development Engineer at General Mills where she is pivotal in launching, innovating and renovating products for multi-million dollar brands such as, Old El Paso and Cascadian Farm.

In 2019, she was awarded as a General Mills Emerging Young Leader, General Mills Volunteer Champion of the Year and named to the 50 Women in Business List of the Twin Cities. She is the Chair of the Midwest Region for the National Society of Black Engineers, a non – profit organization dedicated to increasing the number of minorities in STEM fields. Ms. McCray also sits on the National Board of Directors for the National Society.

Ms. McCray is leading the Professional of Color retention strategy for Minneapolis/St. Paul through Be MSP. As a motivational speaker, she has served as the University of Pittsburgh's Commencement Speaker, Minnesota State University at Mankato's Keynote for their Diversity Days, Girl Scouts of America (MN/WI) Highest Award ceremonies keynote, and held various professional development workshops at conferences all over the country.

Ms. McCray was recently interviewed on MPR about her commitment to change the face of STEM with Dr. Mae Jemison. Ashley was recently named by the Minneapolis - St Paul Business Journal as one of fifty Women in Business. This honor recognizes her contribution to the twin cities and beyond. Ms. McCray is a consultant for minority owned businesses. One of her clients can be found in Whole Foods. As a public servant, Ashley is Co-creator of the STEMulating Young Minds Institute, a training program for educators and community leaders interested in successfully teaching and engaging students in STEM principles, Girl Scout Troop Leader and a Big Sister in Big Brother/Big Sister Twin Cities. With these organizations, she has developed and implemented community – based engineering exposure and outreach programs across the United States of America.

Ashley currently serves on the board for General Mills' Black Champions Network (BCN). Through Ashley's content creation and leadership, the BCN supports evidence-based policies and practices to increase retention and job satisfaction of the talent of color in the global corporation.