

# Tennessee Department of Transportation

The Civil Rights Division celebrates Black History Month by recognizing some of our employees.

## Employee Spotlight: Stacia R. Young-Ganaway



**Administrative Services Assistant II**

Region 3, Project Development  
Right of Way Division

Joined TDOT Family August 2021

She enjoys spending time with her husband, grandchildren, traveling, and event planning.

### **Tell us about a moment in Black History that influenced or shaped your career and life.**

I have two special moments in Black History that influenced and shaped my life and career. The first moment occurred during my 7th & 8th grade Junior High years at Highland Heights School in East Nashville. I signed up for an accelerated class in Forensics and Speech when I, among eight others, was selected to portray “Historic Fisk Jubilee Singers” and sing at school events for an entire year. I was graced with the opportunity to wear the “original” historic clothing of the choir that had been preserved by Fisk University. The attire was still easily frayed and tore at the slightest of touch. But I was so impacted by the opportunity to feel the ambiance that the attire and mission exuded, my imagination easily allowed me to visualize and feel certain emotions from the lyrics in the songs to help them make it through and get past excruciating times. The second moment was the reading and interpretation by my grandmother of Maya Angelou’s poems, “And Still I Rise” & “Phenomenal Woman” along with a host of Biblical and Dr. King’s literatures. As a young girl that resonated with me and made me realize and understand early on, what it means to be the Queen that I am today with servitude in my spirit, resilience in my mind and heart, compassion for others, integrity, a rich self-worth, and a deep and priceless spiritual background.

### **Which of the TDOT Values (Stewardship, Integrity, Safety, Consistency, Development, Innovation, Collaboration & Family) resonates with you and give an example.**

The main TDOT values that resonate with me are “collaboration & family” because I have served in other State departments and did not experience the family-like cohesiveness that I have come to know and appreciate with my TDOT family.

### **Why is celebrating Black History Month important?**

Black History Month, though I feel shouldn’t be confined to just a “month”, is important to me because it provides our world, our country, and our state with awareness, knowledge, and a real impacting presence of who we are as a people of color.

