



Sample Platform for Miss Maple Leaf Pageant

Name: Jane Doe

Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusiveness

It is imperative that this state face and embrace its cultural diversity. While many people have talked about this issue, I believe that most of them have only paid lip service to the true necessity of what needs to be addressed related to this issue. There is a false truth in merely accepting and tolerating cultural diversity. I intend to prove that in order to accept and understand people of other cultures; one must be willing to step out of a personal cultural comfort zone and identify the origin of their prejudice. I will specifically focus on three areas: Children, Communities, and Businesses.

The title of Miss Kansas, combined with the media already looking at the surface of this issue, will allow me to create the statewide awareness that must exist. Currently, the term "Cultural Diversity" is well known in the halls of institutions of higher learner and, perhaps, even in the public school classroom because of the need for some to be politically correct. But, in order for us to make a true change in attitudes and behaviors of Kansans, we must move beyond talk and into action and policy changes.

My plan is to motivate the media and to partner with the State Conference for Community and Justice. This organization has chapters in every major city in the state and, in many cases, those chapters have community leaders involved who can, with encouragement and challenging, bring this issue out of hiding and into the public light in each of those communities.

Obviously the media and the SCCJ already exist. However, what is lacking is a lightning rod to draw attention to this issue. This is where the Miss _____ Organization steps into the lead. What better role is there for Miss _____ than to be an agent of change in organizing our state to accept our differences and to create an environment that values each person on individual characteristics rather than on stereotypes or assumptions?

For years, Miss _____ was seen as a young woman who cut ribbons and appeared in parades. It is time for "Miss _____" to step out of the convertible and *lead the parade*. Our country's ethnic make-up is changing rapidly and our citizen's fear of terrorism can explode already existing, but deeply hidden prejudices. I want to be the leader that this state needs.

This state needs this issue addressed now and through the already existing SCCJ and its local organizations combined with the power of Miss _____, we can make a concrete difference now, which will change the direction and the future of our state.

Signature/Date