

*National Down Syndrome Congress Convention*

# Speaker Spotlight

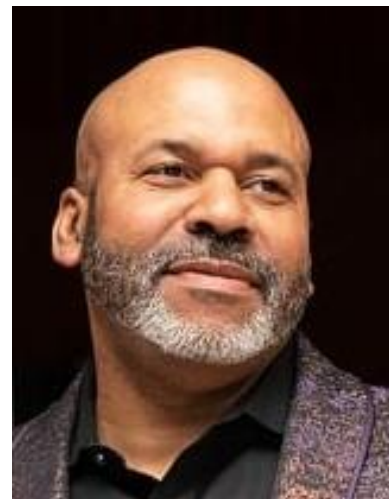


**COURTNEY &  
DEANNA GAINES**



## **Engaging People of Color in Policy Advocacy:**

**An Interview with NDSC Board  
Member Tony Zanfordino**



**NATIONAL  
DOWN SYNDROME  
CONGRESS**



## About Courtney and DeAnna

- I am Courtney Gaines, and this is my mom, DeAnna.
- I have an amazing life. I love to try new things and meet new people.
- This is my mom. DeAnna. She gives me support.
- We work to make the world a better place for me and others with Down syndrome.
- Today, we want to share about some of what we have done and how you can include and support people of color in advocacy.

# Being Courtney

- Courtney has a long list of accomplishments you can find in her bio.
- Coming this fall, Courtney stars in, *I Can Do All Things*. She is the 1st African American female to lead in a scripted project. Link to trailer- <https://youtu.be/GejK82AubJc>





# Courtney's Law- Oklahoma Down Syndrome Information Act

- **Courtney's Law (SB 1203)** is Oklahoma legislation that requires health care providers to provide accurate, up-to-date information about select chromosomal disorders at the time of diagnosis.
- Link to bill history:  
<http://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=SB1203&session=2200>



# World Down Syndrome Day



*"Since the day I was blessed with this wonderful human being, I have been an advocate for her and people with Down syndrome. In the beginning, I was unaware of my role as an advocate, I just knew I had to take the lead to create spaces and places for my daughter to enjoy her life to the fullest. My early lead has allowed her to lead. The saying "actions speak louder than words" embodies her. Her words may not be clear to some, but her actions are loud, intentional and driven from her soul. My family is my greatest blessing, my greatest worry, and my greatest reward. She is our strong tower."*

-DeAnna Gaines, Courtney's Mom

World Down Syndrome Day 2023, this video was released on all Oklahoma Department of Health news outlets.

<https://fb.watch/I4mChFNKNW/>



**NATIONAL  
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## 2023 Graduates

Pictured Left:  
Courtney Gaines  
Choctaw High School,  
Midwest City, Oklahoma

Pictured Right:  
DeAnna Gaines  
Master of Special  
Education  
University of Central  
Oklahoma

