

Influential Women Celebrates Tenisha Golden: A Distinguished Leader Advancing Integrity and Innovation in Public Service

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Celebrating a Career Defined by
Professional Excellence, Accountability,
and Creative Balance

Influential Women proudly recognizes Tenisha Golden in its distinguished 2025 series, celebrating her as an accomplished Administrative Security Officer & Web Content Manager at the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). With 14 years of experience in public service and five years in her current role, Tenisha brings a wealth of knowledge in program organization, web development, and internal security compliance. Known for her meticulous attention to detail, she once uncovered \$260,000 in misreported tax information in a prior position—demonstrating her commitment to accuracy and integrity in every aspect of her work.



Tenisha began her career in administrative and data management roles, including positions as Case Maintenance Technician, Vendor Services Specialist, and Data Capture Operator, where she developed a strong foundation in program administration, financial reconciliation, and client services. She also gained valuable experience in legal collections and auditing, ensuring accurate reporting and compliance across multiple agencies.

Her academic background includes an Associate of Arts in Foundations of Business from the University of Phoenix and ongoing studies toward a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resource Management from Strayer University. This educational journey has strengthened her expertise in organizational management, policy implementation,

and team leadership, providing a solid base for her professional growth.

Throughout her career, Tenisha has demonstrated exceptional skill in effective communication, policy implementation, internal security protocols, and web content management. She leads projects that enhance public and internal-facing digital platforms, manages system access and security training for staff, and provides technical assistance to both internal and external stakeholders. Her ability to balance technical precision with human-centered service has made her an invaluable contributor to the agency's mission and operations.

Tenisha credits her success to a continuous pursuit of personal and professional growth, striving to surpass previous accomplishments, dating back to the early stages of her career. Her professional journey began in retail and through contractual roles with temporary agencies, culminating in a position within Child Support Enforcement prior to the age of 28. Perseverance remains her guiding principle as she navigates career transitions, particularly after experiencing disruptions in 2020 due to the pandemic. Cultivating additional skills while providing support to colleagues has significantly contributed to her ability to manage diverse administrative responsibilities. This multifaceted approach has instilled in Tenisha a strong sense of accomplishment, enabling her to be a well-rounded professional, adaptable to the evolving demands of her career.

Tenisha has observed many professionals throughout her career, so she cannot pinpoint one piece of advice as the absolute best. However, the saying "Actions speak louder than words" has always resonated with her. "It's easy to motivate someone, but being a positive example is, in my opinion, far more impactful. I've witnessed leaders who command respect while remaining compassionate, and who still find time to help others, even when overwhelmed. These experiences have been more memorable than any specific advice, as they revealed people's true character," says Tenisha.

When offering guidance to young women pursuing careers in state government, Tenisha emphasizes the importance of innovation, initiative, and integrity. "Be innovative, take initiative, and always do what's right," she advises. "If you see a process that needs streamlining, outline the corrections and how to implement them before presenting them to upper management. When others turn a blind eye because it's 'not their responsibility,' say something. You never know when a situation will arise that turns into a bigger problem that could have been avoided. Take ownership of any mistakes and double down on correcting them; it builds your character and integrity—something that's missing in the world."

Among the challenges Tenisha continues to navigate are time management, collaboration, and the presence of personal silos. Managing numerous projects, both within and beyond her core responsibilities, requires her to prioritize based on importance and adapt to the pace of others before effectively contributing her expertise. These experiences have taught her patience and the importance of fostering constructive collaboration in team settings.

For Tenisha, maintaining balance, honesty, and peace between her professional and personal life is essential. "That can sometimes be a hard thing to do when you are working from home," she says. "For just as much as we show up for work, we have to be able to care for ourselves. So I have learned over the years to take a step back when I am feeling overwhelmed and re-center myself. This helps me to maintain my well-being while still achieving my professional goals."

Outside of her professional life, Tenisha is a passionate crafter with an Etsy shop called GoldenAbstracts, where she expresses her creativity through unique handmade pieces. Her personal interests in candle making, loose-leaf tea blending, and meditation complement her professional life, fostering both balance and innovation.

Through her dedication, resilience, and authenticity, Tenisha Golden exemplifies the power of perseverance and integrity in public service. Her journey reflects a deep commitment to excellence, continuous learning, and uplifting those around her—qualities that make her an inspiring leader and a true influential woman in Virginia's public sector.

Learn More about Tenisha Golden:

Through her Influential Women profile, <https://influentialwomen.com/connect/tenisha-golden> or through her Etsy shop called GoldenAbstracts, <https://www.etsy.com/shop/GoldenAbstracts>

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