

**TaQuilla Martin**  
**Lawrence Technological University**



**“Save Green with BLUE”**

TaQuilla Martin, a Detroit native, graduated from the University of Maryland University College, after transferring from Eastern Michigan University in 2006 to move to Okinawa, Japan. After returning from Japan, she found herself moving across the country, from D.C. all the way to Arizona, but she never lost her passion for creating change in any place she decided to call her home. In Arizona, she tutored Somali-Bantu Refugees and volunteered with the Literacy Volunteers of Tucson, and then came full circle back to Detroit to create financial literacy programs as an AmeriCorps\*VISTA at Lawrence Technological University (LTU).

As the first year AmeriCorps\*VISTA for this initiative, Martin created the program “Save Green with BLUE.” This program addresses the needs of college students by providing personal financial/financial aid services and resources to students, as well as services for youth in the community to become college ready and financially competent individuals heading into adulthood. Working in partnership with nonprofits like Operation Hope’s “Banking on Our Future” (BOOF) program and the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association, “Save Green with BLUE” has managed to educate over 100 college, high school, and elementary students. This was done through workshops such as “Extreme Reality”, which gave LTU students hands on experience in budgeting, and the two day “Financial Fitness Workshop” for Ferndale’s University High School students, which taught them about needs vs. wants, saving and budgeting, and credit and investing. Future plans to institute a financial literacy workshop series as a permanent sustainable part of the LTU campus are in the works.

**A note from her supervisor, Mark Martin:** “Working closely with LTU faculty and staff, TaQuilla Martin has done an excellent job bringing awareness of financial literacy to the forefront, on and off campus. TaQuilla's community outreach has touched the lives of LTU students, high school students, elementary school students, and many other young lives at the Southfield campus and in the City of Detroit. It's amazing how many people appreciate hearing about and learning about financial literacy so they can go on to control their financial future”.