



## Shanelle Porter-Simmons

Official Bio Sheet for Website, Media & Press Use

### About Page Bio

Shanelle Porter-Simmons is an author, keynote speaker, and retired United States Marine Corps officer whose work helps accomplished women recognize the call toward something more and find the courage to take the first step toward it.

Born out of her own season of transition, Shanelle's message speaks to women who have achieved success by the world's standards yet still feel an unshakable pull toward a different path, a bigger life, or a deeper sense of purpose. She understands that moment intimately. When she felt that same pull in her own life, she did not yet know what it meant or where it would lead. She only knew she could no longer ignore it.

That experience became the foundation for *Try a New Path: Breaking Free, Growing Beyond Comfort*, a book designed to help people acknowledge where they are stuck, understand why they have not moved, and begin stepping forward even before clarity is complete. While much of the conversation around transition focuses on execution after the decision has been made, Shanelle's work centers on the moment before that, the internal reckoning where fear, doubt, comfort, and identity keep people from taking action at all.

Her credibility is rooted not only in what she teaches, but in the life she has lived. Shanelle was once a world-class athlete whose identity was shaped by excellence and recognition, rising from the nation's top high school 400-meter runner to a world ranking of 15th and becoming an American record holder. She later joined the Marine Corps, where she had to rebuild herself from the ground up in an environment where she was no longer exceptional by reputation and instead had to earn her place through grit, discipline, and growth. Over time, she rose to become a respected leader and went on to become the first Black woman to command a Marine Corps Recruiting Station, one of the most competitive commands available to a Marine major. After military service, she entered civilian life and now continues that same journey of reinvention as an entrepreneur, author, and speaker.

Across each chapter of her life, from public relations to athletics, military leadership to entrepreneurship, a single thread has remained constant: curiosity, courage, and a willingness to move before the path is fully mapped out. What she now realizes is that she was not simply changing careers or roles. She was living the message she now shares with others.

Through her book and keynote speaking, Shanelle is focused on spreading awareness that a way forward exists for women who feel called toward something more but have not yet trusted themselves enough to act. Her work offers both language and permission for that moment, helping audiences

understand that they do not need to have everything figured out before they begin. They only need the willingness to move.



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### Media & Press Bio

Shanelle Porter-Simmons is an author, keynote speaker, and retired United States Marine Corps officer whose work helps accomplished women recognize the call toward something more and find the courage to take the first step toward it.

A former world-class athlete, Shanelle rose from being the nation's top high school 400-meter runner to a world ranking of 15th and became an American record holder before entering the Marine Corps. There, she rebuilt her identity from the ground up, rose through the ranks, and became the first Black woman to command a Marine Corps Recruiting Station, one of the most competitive commands available to a Marine major.

Born out of her own season of transition, her message now speaks to women who have achieved success by the world's standards yet still feel an unshakable pull toward a different path, a bigger life, or a deeper sense of purpose. That experience became the foundation for *Try a New Path: Breaking Free, Growing Beyond Comfort*, a book that helps readers acknowledge where they are stuck, understand why they have not moved, and begin stepping forward even before clarity is complete.

Through her book and keynote speaking, Shanelle is focused on spreading awareness that a way forward exists for women who feel called toward something more but have not yet trusted themselves enough to act. Her work offers both language and permission for that moment, helping audiences understand that they do not need to have everything figured out before they begin. They only need the willingness to move.

*Prepared for website and media kit consistency. This version can also be adapted into host introductions, speaker pages, and one-sheet copy.*