



My name is **Arlene Joyner** and I would like to share an experience that Survivors On Purpose made possible. In November 2013 I travelled to Virginia to sit on a peer panel consisting of 12 PhDs and 3 breast cancer survivors. Congressional Directed Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program. DOD BCRP for short! I was nominated by Survivors On Purpose (SOP) support group at Baylor Hospital Irving, TX. I had to qualify with BCRP for a spot on the panel. After qualifying I had to complete 8 applications before my visit to Virginia.

We discussed so many researches that are going on for breast cancer. All together we covered 21 applications in 2 days. I didn't realize there were so many researches going on for breast cancer. There is so much up and coming in this field of research. It's very promising and comforting to know a cure is on the way! The information I gained will surely be used to take to the community.

The experience will always be remembered! The staff of BCRP was awesome! The accommodations were by far the best! The whole experience was educational, enlightening, uplifting and fun. Even though, I was there on a serious mission representing breast cancer, I had a wonderful time!

I welcome the opportunity and hard work anytime! We must stand together and beat this giant called breast cancer! Special thanks to my friend, my sister, Founder and Director of SOP, Leslie Williams. Thanks for your vision, love and compassion for women everywhere. Also, for putting this much trust in me!

Arlene Smith-Joyner

