

### **Full-Length Biography**

At 19-years-old, Chris J. Suggs is a teenage speaker, activist, community leader, and entrepreneur.

Chris is the Founder & CEO of Kinston Teens, Inc., a nonprofit organization he started in October 2014 operating at the intersections of youth empowerment and community development. From transforming vacant lots into neighborhood amenities, to building platforms for young people to be involved in government and make their voices heard, Kinston Teens works to ensure that Chris's peers and local community are both thriving. The organization coordinates voter registration efforts, leadership trainings, social events, and more initiatives for young people in Kinston, North Carolina.

Chris is also the Founder & CEO of Youth Impact Strategies, a consulting firm specializing in helping adults better impact the lives of young people, and young people better impact the world. Chris and his team have worked with nonprofits, churches, schools, and national political leaders on youth engagement strategy, social media, marketing, and more.

Since August 2016, Chris has served as the youngest Commissioner on the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, the state advisory board to the Governor on issues relating to crime, justice, and law enforcement. In 2018, Chris was appointed to the NC Task Force on Safer Schools, the state board that advises policy and legislation to improve the safety of North Carolina's schools and school communities.

Chris is a champion for youth leadership and has worked to promote these important values on platforms and with companies such as Facebook, Nickelodeon, First Lady Michelle Obama's Better Make Room Campaign, CNN, NBC, ABC News 20/20, and The Huffington Post.

Chris is currently a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he is pursuing a double major in Political Science and Religious Studies. On campus, he serves as President of the Black Student Movement—UNC's largest cultural organization.

### **Short Biography**

Born and raised in Kinston, North Carolina, 19-year-old Chris J. Suggs strives to make a lasting difference in his hometown and beyond. Since 2014, Chris has served as the Founder & CEO of Kinston Teens, a nonprofit organization focused on youth empowerment and community development. In addition to his work with Kinston Teens, since 2016 Chris has served as the youngest Commissioner on the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission. Chris has worked with and been featured by major platforms including Nickelodeon, The Huffington Post, Teen Vogue Magazine, Facebook and First Lady Michelle Obama. Chris is currently a student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill majoring in Political Science and serving as President of the UNC Black Student Movement.

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