



## **Anaiyah Barker, Johnson C. Smith University- c/o 2021, Business Marketing**



**Name :** Anaiyah Barker

**Your HBCU :** Johnson C. Smith University

**Graduation Year :** 2021

**Major :** Business Marketing

**Minor :** Entrepreneurship

### **1. Where are you from? Who introduced you to HBCUs?\***

I'm from Atlantic City, New Jersey, my mother attended Virginia State University. And she introduced me into the HBCU experience!



### **2. Why did you choose an HBCU over a pwi?\***

I wanted to feel like myself for once. I grew up in an all white community, but I never lost touch! I wanted to be taught by people who looked, and talked like me! I was tired of pretending!

### **3. What is the story of your "experience" at Your HBCU given its heralded status as a stellar and prestigious institution?\***

I am an young entrepreneur. That is correct you read right, I launched my business my freshman year of college! I was scared, but what is life when you don't take risk? I wanted to be connected and feel like myself I was tired of walking on egg shells, my mother always taught me self-love but what is real self-love when boys who are the same color as you want a black girl who acts and has everything a white lady has? I told myself my senior year it starts now! I created an non-profit organization for young woman of all shapes, size and color! For woman to love themselves!

### **4. "First time" experiences at your HBCU?\***

My favorite part about being at an HBCU was the homecoming experience! I felt like they were my family, you know I was not home sick at all b/c I knew I was were i needed to be.

### **5. Who are the professors that have impacted your life in and out of the classroom? How did they do that?\***

A few professors who have impacted my life is my freshman fresh start professor. He was one who told me to stay on top of my things have fun but also keep working b/c not your average 17 year old is working as hard as I was! Yes I was 17 when I started graduated a year early to start my college career and I wouldn't do anything different!



