



## **Brenda Jones, Cheyney University- c/o 2017, Social Work**



**Name :** Brenda Jones

**Your HBCU :** Cheyney University

**Graduation Year :** 2017

**Major :** Social Work

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

My name is Brenda Jones, and I'm from Phila PA. My aunt Liz introduced me to Cheyney University. She graduated in the early 80s from there and always spoke highly of Cheyney.



Ms Sonia Sanchez

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

Initially I started out with a pwi because I didn't know there were local HBCUs that have locations within the city. In August 2015 I was accepted into the Keystone Honors Academy with a full academic scholarship, and graduated May 2017 Cum Laude.

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

I enjoyed attending Cheyney University and went to the main campus whenever possible for special events. Usually I brought my daughter along to get her acclimated to being at a HBCU. Currently I am attending Lincoln University at a satellite site, thanks to the Bond Hill Scholarship, and I look forward to visiting Lincoln's main campus. At the pwi I never felt like I belonged there, now I feel comfortable, supported, and encouraged.

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

I attended classes in Center City Philadelphia and was surprised with the range of student ages. Although in different stages of life, everyone worked together and had no issue reaching out for help within their cohort or elsewhere. It was a pleasant experience to see people working together instead of the "crab Mentality."

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

During my time at Cheyney, Mrs Rayfield was the drill sergeant in my ear. She is currently the director of the Keystone Honors Academy, she kept me focused throughout my time there. My most influential professor was Dr Schumacher, who was also my advisor. His love of philosophy made me research the true origin - Africa!



Harcum Graduation 2013

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