



Courtney Higgins, Fayetteville State University- c/o 2015, Middle Grades Education



Name : Courtney Higgins

Your HBCU : Fayetteville State University

Graduation Year : 2015

Major : Middle Grades Education

Minor : Mathematics Education

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

I'm from New Bern, NC. My parents and high school teacher Mr. Hicks introduced me to HBCU's.



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

I chose an HBCU over a PWI because I knew from attending many HBCU homecomings and open houses that the experience is undeniable, the education is incomparable, and the people are irreplaceable. The blacker the college, the sweeter the knowledge. When touring PWI's they didn't have the excitement an HBCU has from the music, the black empowerment, the family oriented feel, etc. What better way to get an education than at an HBCU as an African American female? Our ancestors, civil rights leaders, etc. opened these schools so we can prosper just like the PWI's who didn't welcome us.

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

Fayetteville State University from 2009 to 2015 were the best years of my life. My confidence, intellect, and black pride enhanced by attending an HBCU. I met my greatest friends here and experienced my first time doing everything in life here.. FSU prepared me to be the awesome educator I am today by me being top 25% in the state of North Carolina EOG scores, having my non-profit R.I.S.E. to uplift black youth, pursuing and graduating with my Master's degree from a prestigious university and more. If it wasn't for that HBCU in Fayetteville, NC giving me a chance, I wouldn't be where I am today.

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

My first time experience at my HBCU was phenomenal, I knew my calling was to be an educator. Knowing that FSU was known to have top educators in the country was exciting & walking into Fayetteville State University knowing that I would walk out as a young, educated, and black female that would touch the lives of the youth through educating and counseling was even more rejuvenating.

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

Dr. Peter Eley, Mrs. Cherelle Harris, and Dr. Kim Smith-Burton impacted my life in and out the classroom. They inspired me to have respect for diversity, partake in community involvement, and always remain humble throughout my success.

