



## **DeJa Taylor, Saint Augustine's University- c/o 2019, Criminal Justice**



**Name :** DeJa Taylor

**Your HBCU :** Saint Augustine's University

**Graduation Year :** 2019

**Major :** Criminal Justice

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

(I'm from) Monticello, NY. My family actually introduced me to HBCUs, both my parents attended Saint Augustine's University. Both of my aunts attended ECSU.



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

I went to a pwi right out of high school, but I always wanted to get the HBCU experience. I needed to learn to really love being a black woman.

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

Saint Augustine's University exposed me to unity and greatness! My experience made me love me and my community even more than I did prior to attending my HBCU. The way people cared and were willing to help was heart warming, having professors who cared and spoke life into you was life changing.

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

I was overwhelmed, I moved from NY with no friends. As soon as I attended my first class, I left with friends.

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

Dr. Curtis impacted my life tremendously! She taught a "Black experience" class, which opened my eyes as well as my feelings in regards to life and the struggle faced by the black community. She helped me to press forward to be the change I wanted to see.

