



## **Elisabeth Bellevue, Lincoln University of Pennsylvania- c/o 2020, Communications**



**Name :** Elisabeth Bellevue

**Your HBCU :** Lincoln University of Pennsylvania

**Graduation Year :** 2020

**Major :** Communications

**Minor :** African American Studies

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

I was originally born in Haiti. I moved to America as a baby to get open heart surgery. I was then raised in New Jersey but due to my father wanting to start his own church, my family moved to Harrisburg, PA in 2012. I was introduced to HBCUs on my own. I was at a college fair at my high school, Central Dauphin East HS and Lincoln University of PA was one of the HBCUs represented.



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

I chose an HBCU because for one, the first HBCU I was introduced to happened to also literally be the FIRST historically black college and university to grant degrees. Also, I visited the campus as a junior in high school and the atmosphere was welcoming. I felt at home and at the time I was exploring my identity as a young Black girl. Attending an HBCU was the ideal choice.

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

Coming into my HBCU, I had a plan and I had a vision. I was always the student who was involved. This was me in high school. I then transferred that energy to Lincoln University where I was given the opportunity to join many different organizations as well as serve on different boards. When I first came to Lincoln my freshman year, I ran for my freshman class Vice President and was elected to serve. I had the chance to work under my school's Student Government Association which then motivated me to run for the position of SGA Executive Secretary as only a freshman. From there I saw that this was where I belonged. I ran again for Vice President of SGA but didn't have a successful race. But this was all in God's plan! Within that time frame I joined organizations such as NCNW, Thurgood Marshall Law Society, National Society of Leadership and Success, the Lincoln University Concert Choir, Pan-Africana Student Union and much more. Then I recently ran my campaign for the position of SGA President which I was elected for this past March. My experience at MY HBCU has been extraordinary and I believe it has prepared me for post-undergrad in so many different ways. I am living the legacy life..advancing in Character, Leadership and Service. I am making my mark not just for myself but for generations to come.

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

A first time experience at my HBCU would definitely be gaining a beauty sisterhood through membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. This is a first for me because although I was blessed with two siblings, I never truly had an older sister to look up to. This sisterhood has allowed me to gain lifelong bonds with amazing women whom I will forever be thankful for.

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

Dr. Poe who was my Pan-Africana Studies 101 Professor was a motivating force for me. He pushed me to my limits in a positive way. He stressed the importance of academics, service and leadership to me. He never gave up on me even when I was ready to give up on myself. He showed me how important it is to value our HBCUs.



**6. Name 1-2 Global Majority ("melanin-efficient") people that have inspired you. And why? (e.g. Oprah, Malcom X, Marcus Garvey, etc.)**

I look up to Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama.

**7. When and how did you discover your passion in life?**

I discovered my passion in life during the time when the killings of our innocent Black men and women were happening. I used my twitter and my poetry as a platform to advocate for my people. That's when I realized that I am called to advocate.

**8. Are you a member of a sorority?**

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Zeta Omega Chapter