



## **Hannah Burnell , Jackson State University- c/o 2016, History**



**Name :** Hannah Burnell

**Your HBCU :** Jackson State University

**Graduation Year :** 2016

**Major :** History

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

I was born and raised in the central Mississippi area, more specifically the Ridgeland/Jackson areas. HBCUs are the entire reason I exist today. I have deep family HBCU history on both sides of my family evolving Jackson State University and Grambling State University.



"If I'm not laughing, I'm not me."

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

I originally didn't really choose one over the other. I sort of just found myself at Jackson State, and as a result ended up falling in love with the university and the HBCU experience.



Hannah Servicing the Community as a (JSU) Tiger and a State Queen

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

My experience at JSU has been an interesting one. I've grown more and have gained a better understanding of what it means to be a Jacksonian woman. Our institution is held to a very high level in relations to how students and alumni are to conduct themselves.

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

A first time experience for my at JSU was really making friends. I had friends in high school but these were people that I had know from elementary or middle school or met through some one else.

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

The two professors that have really impacted my experience are Dr. Hilliard Lackey and Dr. Bonnie Gardner. They have literally stood with me every step of the way starting from high school to now. There is nothing I can't ask from either one of them that they won't do or advise me on.

