



## **Jason Barnes, Coppin State University- c/o 2013, Accounting**



**Name :** Jason Barnes

**Your HBCU :** Coppin State University

**Graduation Year :** 2013

**Major :** Accounting

**Minor :** Accounting

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

I'm originally from The Bronx and was raised in Baltimore, MD. I was introduced to HBCU's through my Aunt who attended Morgan State University. As a child, I would leave NY, travel to Baltimore and spent days with her. What's funny is I was also introduced to Black Greeks too! My Aunt is an AKA. I really didn't pay attention to Black Greeks growing up, but as I matriculated through college, I knew exactly what I needed to be, an Alpha!



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

I chose Coppin State University because it was academically excellent and was very affordable! I used to visit Coppin 4-5 years before I applied and remembered how much I enjoyed how small it was! Back then it probably spanned 1 long city block. Now it's growing and we need shuttle buses to travel around! While attending Coppin many people told me to transfer to a PWI. But Coppin took care of me. The professors, students, and alumni invested in my future. They ensured my grants went through, allowed me to travel the world, and developed me into a strong Black man. I wouldn't be who I am today without their emotional and social development.

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

I had an internship at a billion-dollar institution. The company only chose 2 people, a person from a well-known PWI and me. Both of us performed financial analysis, but I always performed better. In fact, after the internship was over I received full-time employment. There are so many examples of how myself and my colleagues out-performed persons from well-known PWI's! Some people have low expectations from persons coming out of HBCU's, but the greatest feeling is showing up and showing out!

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

Man! My favorite first time experience was going to a comedy show on campus! As a person of the school's Royal Court, I had reserved front-row tickets, in front of the comedian. As I was sitting down my date fell out the chair! In front of everybody! It was the saddest, most hilarious

experience in my life. It was at that moment I realized that moment I realized our people have no chill.

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

There are so many! I would give a special shot-out to Dr. Hyacinth Ezeka, Dr. Errol Bolden, Mrs. Majorie Hill-Lyles, Dr. Claudia Nelson, Dr. Mark Saunders, and of course, Ms. Jennifer Harris!

