



Jazzilynn Breland , Bethune-Cookman University- c/o 2017, Liberal Arts



Name : Jazzilynn Breland

Your HBCU : Bethune-Cookman University

Graduation Year : 2017

Major : Liberal Arts

Minor : Psychology

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

I am from Daytona Beach, Florida where Bethune Cookman University is located. The university has always been a part of the culture of my city.



Class of 2017

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

Attending an HBCU was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I've attended pwi and trade schools before choosing BCU. I wish I had made it my first choice. The first semester everyone is required to take an African American history class, it opened my eyes to so much about our history, culture, and heritage that we were never taught about ourselves. Also having the opportunity to bond and learn about other cultures of the African diaspora from the diverse student population from all over the world. Black Students/teachers from the Caribbean, South America, and Africa learning, building the community, and bonding together was such a wonderful experience. Bethune Cookman is very involved in community service and I really felt that I was making a difference in my community. I would have never gotten this kind of experience at a pwi.

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

Bethune Cookman University is committed to community service. Whether it be the Daytona Beach community or the hometowns where the students come from. "Enter to learn and depart to serve" is what is instilled in students from freshman to senior year. The administration and instructors weren't just focused on creating job seekers they also provided us with the education and resources to become job creators. This is key to building communities. Empowerment is what I took away from my experience at an HBCU.

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

Although BCU plays a Huge role in the Daytona Beach community, my first time experience at an HBCU was excellent. Being surrounded by black excellence is a wonderful feeling. It's great to be in an environment where you can be comfortable with being yourself.

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

Dr. Ford in the history department taught me so much about African Americans history. Mr. Cooper in the business department taught us to be professionals, entrepreneurs, and create jobs in our communities. Professor Sivasundaram inspired us to use math to solve economical problems that were actually happening in our communities. Mrs. Vance and Ms. Arnold in the psychology department helped us realize that mental health shouldn't be something that is taboo in the black community. We should take care of overall health mind, body, and soul. Lastly, I would have not made it through college without my academic advisor Mrs. Lawrence. She is really dedicated to the success of her students. If I had a problem with instructors she would help resolve the conflict. If I had obstacles in my way she would help me come up with solutions so that I could remain in school. If I was having problems paying tuition she helped me find scholarships for books and tuition. Having a good academic advisor can make or break a student and she really is dedicated to her students.

