



## **Keila Outen, Fort Valley State University- c/o 2019, Psychology**



**Name :** Keila Outen

**Your HBCU :** Fort Valley State University

**Graduation Year :** 2019

**Major :** Psychology

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

I am Keila Outen an Alumna of THEE Fort Valley State University, hailing from the enchanted island of Puerto Rico! I was introduced to my HBCU by one of my instructors, who is an alumnus of my FVSU. If it wasn't for Col. Williams, teaching me about what an HBCU is and just demonstrating the kind of love and kindness that you get from attending an HBCU, I would've missed out on a life-changing opportunity.



It was my HBCU (FVSU) that gave me a second chance! -2LT Outen

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

It was one of my ROTC instructors that encouraged me to transfer to FVSU. I can remember him telling me that Fort Valley State was going to change my life for the better, and I didn't understand until I stepped foot on campus for the first time!

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

My HBCU changed my life, for the better. I started off at a PWI and no matter how hard I worked it seemed to go unnoticed, no matter how many positions I held i was always over looked. It got to a point where I was actually told that I needed to leave the school because I wasn't going to going to get what I came for, which was an ROTC contract. It was one of my ROTC instructors that encouraged me to transfer to FVSU. I can remember him telling me that Fort Valley State was going to change my life for the better, and I didn't understand until I stepped foot on campus for the first time!

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

First impressions are lasting impressions. The very first time I stepped foot on campus I was greeted and welcomed with open arms. I was looked at as equal to everyone else, and was given the opportunity to compete for an ROTC contract with out pre-judgement. Within the first week I was contracted and awarded a full scholarship! My FVSU changed my life and made me who I am today.

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

I would be wrong if I said there was just one professor that impacted my life, because all of my professors had such an impact on my life. From the one on one attention, to the encouraging words and support for all the things that I did in and outside of school.