



Laura Gooch Brown, Morgan State University- c/o 2003, Social Work



Name : Laura Gooch Brown

Your HBCU : Morgan State University

Graduation Year : 2003

Major : Social Work

Minor : Music

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

I was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Growing up in New Orleans, I was surrounded by many HBCUs and spent a lot of time on these campuses over the years. I grew up in a family of HBCU graduates so these institutions were always discussed and I was encouraged to attend.



"Professor Yvonne Greene- became a mother figure and mentor; I model my social work practice after the example she provided."

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

Visiting many campuses, doing research on the institutions, and comparing HBCUs and PWIs, there was truly no comparison for me. HBCUs provided more - academically, socially, culturally, and spiritually than any PWI.

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

When I decided to apply for admission at Morgan State University, my high school choir director encouraged me to audition for the University Choir because of my years of singing and performing in various choirs. She provided a videotape of the illustrious choir under the direction of Dr. Nathan Carter. I was in awe of the talent that I heard that day. I knew that day that Morgan State University was an institution that had set the bar very high and I wanted to be a part of it.

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

1. Meeting life long friends 2. Public speaking course prepared me for my work as a trainer, educator, and director in my field. 3. Living with roommates

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

Professor Yvonne Greene- became a mother figure and mentor; I model my social work practice after the example she provided. Professor Lillie Ragins- Walker- supported my interest in industrial social work Dr. Rhonda Willbon-encouraged cultural pride and how to incorporate it into

social work practice Dr. Mildred McKinney- became a surrogate mother; talked to me about life and how to overcome challenges.

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