



## **Lauren Taylor, Clark Atlanta University- c/o 2020, Public Policy and Administration**



**Name :** Lauren Taylor

**Your HBCU :** Clark Atlanta University

**Graduation Year :** 2020

**Major :** Public Policy and Administration

**Minor :** Public Policy and Administration

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

I'm from Detroit, Michigan. I was introduced to HBCUs by reading a novel titled "Leaving Atlanta" by Ms. Tayari Jones, a graduate of Spelman. Spike Lee also played a significant role in my desire to pursue my education at an HBCU and specifically CAU, with the film "School Daze".



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

There was never an option for me to choose a PWI instead of a HBCU. Growing up in an educationally dilapidated city, gave me a strong desire to want to be around African American scholars.

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

As the 2019-2020 Graduate Student Association Vice-President, I've been able to experience a different side of my institution. As a student leader I've been invited to budget meetings with board members, which is directly related to my degree as a Masters of Public Administration candidate. I'm in awe how my illustrious University really takes in time accounting the perspectives of all students and works to implement directives that embody all of the students.

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

Attending my HBCU was the first time I was ever surrounded by individuals who wanted to better themselves academically. Being at CAU I've met so many gifted and talented students who have so many goals, and I'm just honored to be around so much Black excellence. There's no such thing as an idea being "too big" or "far-fetched" when you attend CAU.

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

My favorite experience by far is actually getting to speak with amazing novelist Ms. Tayari Jones and tell her how much she influenced my decision to come to an HBCU. Ms. Jones is actually good

friends with my former professor Dr. Black, and he actually called her in class so that I could speak with her. I will appreciate him forever for that opportunity. Dr. Black is also the author of a series of novels that shaped the way I viewed the Atlantic Slave Trade and post-slavery America. My bachelors degree is in Sociology with a minor in History, from Clark Atlanta University as well. Professors Dr. Simon and Dr. Patterson greatly attributed to me wanting to pursue my major and minor, as I originally came to CAU as a communications major. My academic experience has been extremely unique as I've been blessed with the chance to learn from exemplary African American women who truly have a heart for educating young women.

