



Melvin Bridges, Alabama State University- c/o 2010, Mathematics



Name : Melvin Bridges

Your HBCU : Alabama State University

Graduation Year : 2010

Major : Mathematics

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

I was born in Wisconsin and the only thing we saw HBCU related was "Drum Line." It was not until a local organization sponsored a Black college tour that reached out to youth to make us aware of these institutions.



The Mighty and Elegant Bibb Graves Hall on Alabama States' Campus

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

I was born in Wisconsin and the only thing we saw HBCU related was "Drum Line." It was not until a local organization sponsored a Black college tour that reached out to youth to make us aware of these institutions. I chose Alabama State University, (where we like to call it myASU), because of its rich tradition in producing educators, affordable tuition as I received a full-ride from there and not at the PWIs (predominantly White Institution) I applied to, and I had known a few people attending there as well.



Positive Reflection of Self is very important. Never underestimate its value

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

My "experience" at myASU(Alabama State University) would sum up to two words; exciting(shock) and loving. Let me explain: Coming from an urban school district in the Midwest, there are not a majority of black high school students who are excelling academically or believing in education; there seem to be only a select few. I was one of the select few and I was always placed in college-level courses with my white counterparts. The experience in the college-prep courses were great but it had its downfalls socially. I was in class with white middle to upper class students who I could not relate with by any means.

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

N/A

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

All of the math department professors! I have a special affinity towards Dr. Pettis, Dr. Prevo, Dr. Maryland and the late, Mr. Stallworth. All of these individuals were perfect examples of what I could become in the academia of Mathematics. It was their personal stories of how growing up black and poor did not stop them from their dreams and capabilities. Their life story powered my confidence and showed me a realistic and personal example of what I could become.

6. Best restaurants on/near campus? Best dishes?

I think Fried Chicken went down on Wednesdays! My Sophomore year, myASU opened a new dining hall. The dining hall offered more and at times they would have steak or a various selection of chicken wings like BBQ, sweet and sour, lemon pepper, hot, mild you name it, they had it. The lines those days were hectic. Matter of fact I used to get text messages saying, "get to the "caf" right now!"

7. College crush?

Ha! Someone who I consider a friend today. She and I had similar aspirations and had a lot of things in common. <—I will stop right there.