



Omar McCrimmon, Norfolk State University- c/o 2003, Journalism & Mass Communications



Name : Omar McCrimmon

Your HBCU : Norfolk State University

Graduation Year : 2003

Major : Journalism & Mass Communications

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

I was born and raised in Washington, DC - Northeast DC to be exact. My dad went to an HBCU (Virginia Union University - Go panthers!) So I was exposed to HBCU life at a very young age.



Omar McCrimmon, 38, Science/Public Health Communications and Outreach Director

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

For me, it was really a no-brainer that I was going to attend an HBCU. If your parents, grandparents, and/or other family members attended an HBCU, I kind of feel like you should continue the tradition, if you are able to do so. It's true that HBCUs do primarily serve African-American students, but that doesn't mean you're going to have a limited cultural experience in your lifetime. Which is why I made the decision to participate in internships that exposed me to different cultures. Being a well-rounded person was/is extremely important to me as I navigate through society.

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

My experience at Norfolk State University (Behold!) is something I will treasure for a lifetime. Once I started to get in the groove of attending classes, I immediately noticed a sense of community and collaboration among the student body. The professors and faculty I encountered really helped nurture and guide me throughout my college experience.

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

The first thing that comes to mind is homecoming. My mind was blown. From the alumni that comes from all over, to the band - memories that will last a lifetime. Also, Black College Weekend at Paramount Kings Dominion was a ton of fun. I'm glad I got to experience it before it got cancelled.

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

When I first got to NSU, my major was undecided. Then I met a man by the name of Richard Koonce who would change my life forever. I decided to start taking Journalism courses because I was leaning toward becoming a Journalism major, but wasn't 100% sure. After turning in a couple of writing assignments, Mr. Koonce approached me after class one day and said "Have you thought about being a Journalism major?" I told him I was thinking about it but not really sold on the idea. He then told me "you are a great writer, you should consider it". That literally was the first time I ever heard someone say I was good at anything and I felt empowered. After meeting with him a few times during his office hours, I started to get an earful about the types of opportunities that are out there for Mass. Communications/Journalism students. I was sold.



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