



## **Omar Waller, Tuskegee University- c/o 2016, Electrical Engineering**



**Name :** Omar Waller

**Your HBCU :** Tuskegee University

**Graduation Year :** 2016

**Major :** Electrical Engineering

**Minor :** N/A

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

I'm from Ellenwood, GA on the east side of Atlanta. My parents initially introduced me to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. My dad graduated from Fisk University and mom graduated from Spelman.



Tuskegee University shaped me into the man I am today.

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

I chose Tuskegee University after attending the engineering summer camp in 2015. At the summer camp, we received introductions to the disciplines of engineering offered by Tuskegee University; electrical engineering, aerospace engineering, mechanical engineering, and chemical engineering. Throughout the camp, I fell in love with the Tuskegee spirit and decided to attend the following fall.

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

At Tuskegee University, I discovered the excellence in African-American history not taught/learned in public school education. Not only did I learn about Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, and the Tuskegee Airmen, I walked the same grounds they walked on, the same fields they tilled, and the same airfields they trained on. This experience gave me a new sense of identity, a new feeling of "somebodiness", and a different level of ambition.

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

I was lucky that my first experience at an HBCU was in the Marching Crimson Piper Band. I formed a close bond with my crab (freshman) class, many of whom I'm still in contact with today. The band experience at an HBCU is unparalleled to any other campus organization.

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

My physics professor, Dr. Burns, was my favorite professor among them all. He pushed his

students to think critically, study hard, and understand the fundamentals. He was hard but fair. Outside of the classroom, I was fortunate enough to receive mentoring from the President of the University. Those conversations shaped my ambitions and helped to further define my aspirations.

