



Onicka Daniel, Hampton University- c/o 2002, Liberal Arts



Name : Onicka Daniel

Your HBCU : Hampton University

Graduation Year : 2002

Major : Liberal Arts

Minor : Communications with a focus in Public Relations

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

I was raised in Newport News, Virginia. I was introduced to HBCU's by my parents. My father graduated from Virginia State University and my mother attended North Carolina A&T State University.



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

I chose an HBCU because I was very interested in the historical relevance of a black university. I wanted to learn who I was as a person and my place in this world we live in. As a young mother, at the time, I wanted to give my child the best, by learning all I could learn about my culture, my history and my personal identity.

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

As a young mother, I wasn't able to party like some of my friends. I did however, learn who I was as a young African American woman. My professors were very understanding to my struggles as a parent to a small child and I truly appreciated that. It took me a lot longer to actually graduate because I was working full time to take care of my daughter, with support from family. I specifically remember being in my Marketing class when it was announced that Biggie Smalls had died. It was almost like the entire campus got quiet. That was a pivotal time in our history as a culture and his passing truly shook the Hip Hop World.

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

When I attended Hampton University I remember myself and my small group of friends being so excited to go to our first college party, during a homecoming weekend. During that weekend I remember Wu Tang Clan and Redman performed nearby at the Hampton Coliseum! We had so much fun, laughing, dancing and enjoying 90's music. We all got along, there was no negativity.

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

did they do that?*

My marketing professor at the time impacted my life very much. She was so understanding and patient with me. I remember being so shy during that time. There were several assignments dealing with public speaking so I truly had to come out of my comfort zone to complete the assignment. That was difficult for me but I did it and I was thankful for the encouragement and the opportunity to do something that would show my skills that I didn't even know existed at the time.



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