



Raven Lemon, Texas Southern University- c/o 2019, Computer Information Science



Name : Raven Lemon

Your HBCU : Texas Southern University

Graduation Year : 2019

Major : Computer Information Science

Minor : Foreign Languages

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

I am originally from Birmingham, AL. I grew up on a street behind Miles College, so I have always known about HBCUs, but it wasn't until I got to Houston that I realized Black People went to schools other than HBCUs if they aren't athletes.



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

I wanted to attend Clark Atlanta University because I met many of their alumni in Houston volunteering and my favorite teacher graduated from there. However, I let family members talk me out of it because of misconceptions about HBCUs. I went to a PWI and transferred because I got tired of being a token. I chose TSU because it is a great school for new beginnings and our new president has made so many improvements. Also, we have a great Chinese studies department!

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

I had the opportunity to interview with former UN Ambassador and Civil Rights Activist Andrew Jackson Young Jr. He spoke about the importance of solidarity in the African Diaspora, an opportunity I would have never had had at a PWI.

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

I had never experienced a "Hump Day" before I came to TSU. It is definitely the highlight of my week! Also, if we are lucky you can catch our President stepping at events.

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

Professor Zantel Nichols hands down has been the most amazing professor that I have ever met. She holds us to a standard that Black students aren't accustomed to. She really understands the complexities we have that are unique to Black students. Public schools gave me a complex. I was

always the "smart Black kid" and it made it hard for me to ask for help. I always felt like I wasn't as smart or successful as the kids around me because I was always the only Black person there and my mom couldn't help me with my homework because she was working. Professor Nichols opened up about her struggles with being the only person that looks like her in a room and how she overcame that pressure. I could go on all day about how much she impacted me!



With TSU President Lane at TSU Day at the Capitol !