



Tiorra Ross, Howard University- c/o 2013, Chemistry



Name : Tiorra Ross

Your HBCU : Howard University

Graduation Year : 2013

Major : Chemistry

Minor : Mathematics

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

I was born in Philadelphia, PA however, I was raised in Georgia! My grandmother would always praise and talk about HBCUs when I was a child. She loved Lincoln, Howard, Spelman, and Morehouse College!



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

Honestly, I was absolutely so tired of being the “token” black student in my classes! I knew there was educated blacks like me in this world and I wanted to be surrounded by them during my prime years of maturing into a woman!

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

Wow!! Where do I start! First off, Howard University was the best decision I have ever made in my life!!! From 18-22 years old, I believe this is a prime time in a young woman’s life to be cultivated and to find out who they are! Being at Howard, I was surrounded by strong and warm-hearted women, who truly had the best intentions for me! I learned how to be a confident, determined, but elegant woman, who can lead the world!

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

So every year Howard has an “Accepted and Committed Day” where all the students who have been accepted to Howard come for an exclusive tour of the campus. I came that day with my mother and instantly I made friends! Everyone in Crampton Auditorium were black educated individuals, who majority had the same experience as I did being the “token” and they wanted to be surrounded by their own! I was in love! This was exactly what I wanted and needed in my life! Fast forward, only ten minutes into the tour I tapped my mother and said “I’m done, let’s pay this admission fee.”

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

My mentor Dr. Haddad made it his duty besides being my research instructor, but to also guide me into medical school and whatever other passions I had, to achieve them! The professors and mentors I had at Howard went above and beyond to help with my professional and personal life! They made sure I was WHOLE!



6. How did your HBCU prepare you for a diverse workplace?

Howard as well as Morehouse School of Medicine made me very aware that I might only be the only black physician in the room. I must realize that I am the creating a path for young minorities to have a chance to follow my path without all the struggles I encountered. Therefore, I must act accordingly and realize what other workers can wear or do might be acceptable, but not acceptable for me to do as a minority.