



## **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.