

BLACK COLLEGE TODAY

For Today's Black College Students

Volume XX

Number 4

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July/August

2021

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TAKING THE VACCINE GIVES US HOPE AND PROTECTION

By Dr. James B. Ewers Jr.

I was hesitant at first to take the vaccine. Black people like me had built in reasons not to take it.

During the early stages, I saw the vaccine as a bit of an experiment. I had some questions and concerns about it.

What were the side effects? Was it safe?

We took the Johnson and Johnson vaccine some months ago and had no side effects.

I am now a vaccine ambassador and strong advocate for African Americans to get the vaccine.

If it is the single shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine like my wife and I had, get it. If it is the Pfizer and Moderna two shot vaccine, then get it.

What is most important is that you get the vaccine. This health remedy is giving us a pathway to better and brighter days ahead.

Unfortunately, the phrase “vaccine hesitancy” is firmly entrenched in our everyday language. This term is overwhelming us. It makes us slow to act and even slower to react.

We have a million excuses as to why we will not get the vaccine. This is despite the many television and radio advertisements. We see them and hear them, yet we are unmoved by them.

This must change. Our attitudes must go from hopeless to hopeful and from less encouraged to being encouraged.

As we have known from the beginning, Black people have suffered mightily

from this illness. This is the reason that we as Black people must get vaccinated.

We have one less plate to serve and one seat is always empty.

Dr. Fola May, a UCLA physician and health equity researcher said, “My concern is if we don’t vaccinate the population that’s highest risk, we’re going to see even more disproportional deaths in the Black and Brown communities. It breaks my heart.”

There is some good news on the horizon. It appears that more African Americans want to get vaccinated.

The Kaiser Family Foundation conducted a survey, and the results were significant. In December only 20% of African Americans said they wanted the shot as soon as possible. However, in March of 2021, 55% of African Americans said they wanted the shot or had already received the vaccine.

The signs look good for us. We need to continue to press forward with this life saving initiative. We cannot rest or drop our guard until more of us receive the vaccine.

The number of college students receiving the vaccine is improving each month. This is good news indeed!

I believe more students are realizing that it is safe to take. What is important now is that you let other students know they too should receive the shots.

If you are home or in summer school, you will be safer with the vaccine. That is now a fact.

Letting people in your community know about the positive effects of the

vaccine will also be important. There are still some folks out here who are apprehensive.

In a strange but comparable analogy, this is much like voting. We take our friends and neighbors to the voting polls. Now, we must take them to get vaccinated.

If we cannot, maybe Uber can. Uber, the transportation service is offering 10 million free and discounted rides to communities across the country.

Lyft is also offering a similar service so that we the people can get shots in the arms. Both companies depend upon us to make money. Consequently, they want us to be safe and healthy when riding with them.

Vaccines are pretty much available from Wal-Mart to Walgreens. For example, Walgreens has over 9,000 locations across the nation where we can get vaccinated.

We do not have any excuses, at least we should not have.

My Brothers and Sisters, go and get vaccinated today. There are some things that you can put off. Postponing getting the vaccine is not one of them.

Life is much too precious to be stubborn and stern when it comes to our health.

Getting vaccinated must be a priority in your life.

We just celebrated Father’s Day. There will be other occasions and holidays coming up throughout the year.

Let us be able to enjoy them with our family and friends because we are vaccinated.

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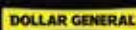
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UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY: COMMANDER KEITH L. WATSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND DIVERSITY ADMISSIONS OFFICER

Graduation season has just ended. Collegians all over the country have completed their requirements and celebrated that fact with zoom parties and drive by parades. For many of those grads, finding a job amid all that's going on in the world may be a daunting task. The post-grad job search is often fraught with anxiety, and some recent grads find themselves in a type of limbo as they transition from school to work.

There is another type of graduate however who by the time you hit the "leave meeting" button on a Zoom graduation ceremony will have travelled the world and have real world experience in an industry hungry for new talent. The United States Merchant Marine Academy educate and graduate leaders of exemplary character who are inspired to serve the national security, marine transportation, and economic needs of the United States as licensed Merchant Marine officers and commissioned officers in the Armed Forces.

The academy is one of higher education's best engineering schools and provides an eye-opening perspective to students looking for career options. Located just 16 miles from Manhattan, in King's Point, NY, The US Merchant Marine Academy is one of five tuition free federal service academies. Commander Watson the Assistant Director of Admissions

and Diversity Admissions Officer stated, "students that have the opportunity to attend the Academy will not only receive a world class education, but will also receive an active Coast Guard license and travel to several countries during their four years". Cadets at the academy must complete a Sea Year. No you will not be out to sea for a whole year, however, during your four years, you could accumulate up to 360 day of travel at sea.

Students who attend the academy will major in one of the following: Marine Transportation, Maritime Logistics and Security, Marine Engineering, Marine Engineering Systems or Marine Engineering and Shipyard Management.

You may ask, what do Merchant Marines do? The Merchant Marine consists of privately-owned, U. S. registered merchant ships. We provide waterborne transportation for passengers and cargoes moving in domestic and international commerce. In time of war or national emergency, the U. S. Merchant Marine serves as a "fourth arm of defense".

"The majority of products that you use daily was made somewhere outside the U. S., additionally, most were transported to the U. S. by ships. If you have a phone in your pocket, a shirt on your back, or are using anything with a screen, then

you are very familiar with the shipping industry.

The career paths for graduates of the Merchant Marine Academy can lead to working in marine transportation and military service. Graduates matriculate as officers in both industries.

There is a service requirement. For those who choose to enter the military as a full time commissioned officer, the service commitment is five years. Those who decide to pursue maritime service the military commitment is eight years in the reserve. Only serving two weeks a year for eight years.

The academy has a very robust athletic program. Athletes can participate in Basketball, Baseball, Football, Soccer, Lacrosse, Track & Field and several water sports, just to name a few.

The US Merchant Marine Academy is also a great option for transfer students looking to explore other career paths.

College is a time of exploration and discovery. That includes learning about different careers opportunities that aren't necessarily talked about as much as others. The US Merchant Marine Academy is a great example of what's out there.

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WE ARE ALL UNIQUE

by Felicia Durden

*You're an original,
an individual, a
masterpiece. Celebrate
that; don't let your
uniqueness make you
shy. Don't be someone
other than the wonder
you are. Every star is
important to the sky.*

DOUGLAS PAGELS

This month I want to talk to you about the importance of knowing your unique gifts and talents. In this age of social media, it is easy to lose ourselves by measuring up to what we think we should be doing or how we feel we should act. The fact is, we are all unique and have because they are what makes up uniquely ourselves. This month, I want to leave you with some tips on how to celebrate your uniqueness.

Step 1: What are your interests?

Step 2: What are things you often get complimented for?

Sometimes others can see our strengths more clearly than we can. What are some of the things that your friends and family compliment you for? Are you a very organized person? Are you the go-to person if someone needs something researched? Start listening to the things that people tell you that you do very well. These are keys to your uniqueness and are things you want to cultivate to continue on your path to purpose.

I was always complimented on how calm I am and how I am able to calm people down who are stressed. I used this for years in my work as an educator. It made me a good listener, which enabled my teams to excel.

Step 3: What job would you do for free?

Another indicator of our unique gifts are the things that we would do for free. Would you enjoy helping people with their computer issues for free? There are things that we enjoy doing and would not mind doing them even if we were not paid. I, for example, love books and would work in a bookstore for free. I think it would be fun to show people around and help them find their favorite books. This is just a personal example, but what would you not mind doing that would not even seem like work? That is another key to your unique gifts.

Step 4: When do you feel most energized?

When we feel energized and upbeat, that is a clue into our unique gifts. What activities make you feel alive? Maybe it is when you are helping someone find an item of clothing or when you are figuring out a puzzle. These instances shine a light on your unique gifts and preferences. The next time you are doing a task and you feel really energized take note as this could be key to unique gifts.

As you see, finding your unique gifts is as simple as taking the time to slow down and pay attention to your actions and reactions to life situations. Knowing your talents, you can begin to find your future career focus and/or hobby or philanthropic endeavor. I wish you clarity as you discover your unique talents.



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Pictured from left to right are Kelise Gadsen, Taren Dubose, and Takeara Robinson.

THREE MORRIS COLLEGE BIOLOGY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SUMMER INTERNSHIP

On Friday, June 4, 2021, three Morris College Biology students reported to Savannah State University in Savannah, Ga. for their 10-week summer research internship. In preparation for completing the internship, the students attended a two-hour virtual orientation boot camp on Thursday, June 3, 2021. The Morris College students are joining 22 other students from campuses all over the United States. Their mentor, Dr. Radman Ali, chairman of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics selected the three students to do summer research on the basis of their excellent academic achievement and keen interest in environmental issues. The three students became members of the Mentorship Environmental Scholarship (MES) program which is a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Pre-College University (PCU). DOE paid all the internship expenses. Mr. Clarence Brown, a frequent participant in Science in Action Week, is the director of PCU.

The purpose of MES is to provide talented undergraduate students with exposure to research and educational opportunities that are available in several DOE participating sites.

In addition to their research, the three students will attend a three-day Teaching Radiation Energy and Technology workshop at USC-Aiken, and will visit the Savannah River Site Laboratory. Their research mentor at Savannah State is Dr. Kenneth Sajwan. The three students are Takeara Robinson, junior; Kelise Gadsden, junior; and Taren Dubose, sophomore.

Dr. Ali and Ms. Angela Ruth conducted a Zoom meeting with the three students on May 25 to prepare them for the internship and to discuss with them the research expectations and the deliverables stated in the Morris College internship manual.

The three research scholars will present their research in a PowerPoint to the college community in September 2021. They will attend a post-internship conference either in Washington D.C. or in a virtual setting (if the Covid-19 restrictions remain in effect).

Dr. Ali and the divisional faculty and staff are proud of the achievements of the burgeoning research scientists and will continue to provide future summer research opportunities for them and other capable students.

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MORGAN SCHOLAR EARNS FIRST PLACE IN TARGET'S INAUGURAL 'HBCU FUTURE LEADERS IN RETAIL CHALLENGE'

Biology Major Madison Pleas Submits Top Case Study, Earning Nearly \$4,000 in Prizes and a Job Offer

Despite having to navigate the ongoing challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Morgan State University students continue to shine on the national stage and compete at a very high level. For its inaugural HBCU Future Leaders in Retail Challenge, general merchandise retailer Target reached out to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) for top-notch students to participate in the competition. Each participant was tasked with developing a comprehensive leadership plan that provided a solution to a particular Target-related challenge. Representing Morgan was rising senior Madison Pleas, who is majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry.

As part of the competition, each student was tested for their capabilities as a leader. Envisioning themselves as a store director, participants were asked to develop a PowerPoint presentation in one week to highlight the store's successes and its current focus, and to tell how the store would be transformed to its ideal state over the next 90 days, in anticipation of a store visit from a Target group vice president. The challenge was designed to demonstrate leadership skills, critical and creative thinking and the ability to achieve exceptional outcomes.

Each entry submitted was judged by Target store leaders and recruiters. Leaders at Target are expected to model Target's

Core Behaviors, which include accountability, boldness, curiosity and teamwork, and the judges looked for these attributes in solutions presented by each of the students.

Pleas accepted the challenge and put forth a detailed solution that took into consideration all of the variables and parameters of the competition. For her efforts, the judges chose Pleas as one of the five finalists and ultimately selected her as the overall, first-place winner of the competition. Target announced the winners via a special video (link: <https://youtu.be/MnF0AMy69uk>) released online.

As the overall winner of the first-year competition, Pleas will receive prizes valued at approximately \$4,000, including a \$2,000 cash prize, a new MacBook, a one-year Master Class subscription, a Shipt membership and more. Also, the judges were so impressed with Pleas' winning entry that she was offered a position with the company. Although grateful for the offer, Pleas plans to enter medical school after her graduation from Morgan.

Congratulations to Madison Pleas for exhibiting the University's core value of leadership and showing why Morgan's students are Growing the Future and Leading the World!

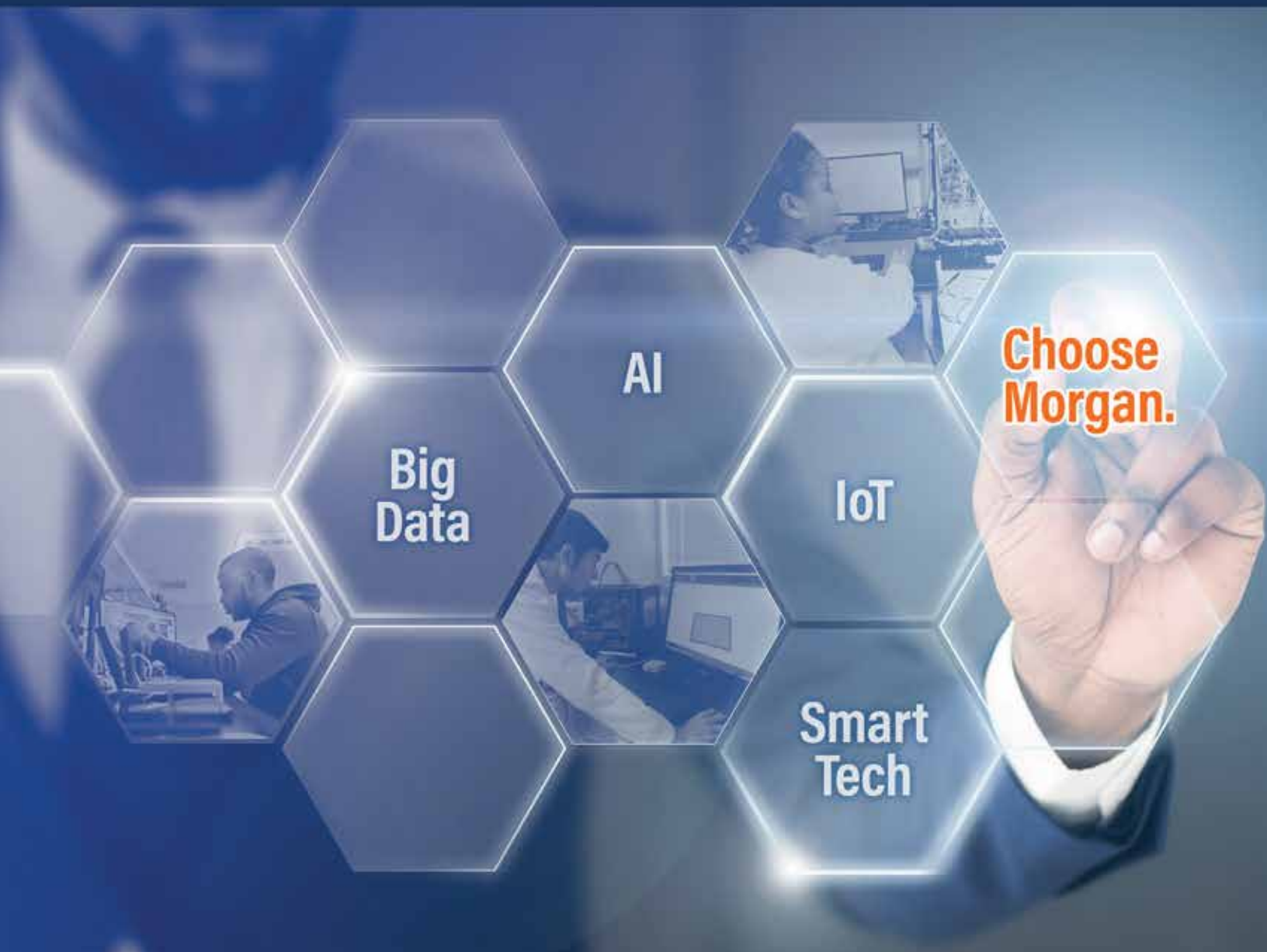
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Emancipation *meet* Independence

As you are aware...

The United States recently acknowledged the Emancipation of black humans in recognition of Juneteenth (June 19th) as an official federally recognized holiday (legislation signed into law by President Joe Biden) stemming from the fact that many slaves were still in bondage two and a half years AFTER they were freed by President Abraham Lincoln under the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863.

So why should you care college educated students?? Why does this matter to you?

The word "**Freedom**" is a powerful word. Its meaning affords us the opportunities to attend any college of our choice. It allows you the opportunity to choose the classes you want to take, the extra-curricular activities you want to participate in, the car you want to drive, the career you want to focus on, the house you want to live in, the clothes you want to wear, the friends you want to be with, the family members you want to stay close to and cherish.

Should I continue? Or do you get the message?

Remember...slavery was not just physical bondage. It was also mental bondage. When federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take over the state and free slaves in that territory who were

still being held captive by slave masters—I repeat—two and a half years AFTER slavery was already abolished in the U.S. , there were many slaves who were afraid to leave.

Yes...some wanted to stay. Why? You might ask.

Answer: Because of mental enslavement. For this reason...I urge you to NOT take your education lightly. Do not take for granted your freedom to THINK freely, to make independent choices, to select great paths of accomplishment, to eat the food you like, to apply for the job you want, to own the corporation you will establish, to walk in and out of your apartment or dorm when you choose to do so, to leave campus to run errands when you want to (*there is not enough room on this page to continue...but I KNOW you get the message*).

DO NOT take your *FREEDOM* for granted! It is your *INDEPENDENCE*. Be extremely grateful for our forefathers, mothers and children who endured so much hardship so that we can enjoy the fruits of *freedom*.

Stay Blessed...Stay Woke...Stay Appreciative.

Until the next time,
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THE #1 RELATIONSHIP THAT'S OVERLOOKED AND NECESSARY FOR CAREER SUCCESS

PART 2

SUCCESS



by Robin Kegler

In Part 1 I shared that Pawns would keep you from accomplishing your business dreams and goals. In Part 2, let us look at the Pawn's partner... Pushers.

Pushers are people whose purpose is to thrust forward, downward and/or outward with force. Unlike the pawn who will move forward with gentle or convincing persuasion, the pusher will use strength. Tactics include things like spreading lies, defamation of character, physical attack and emotional and mental abuse. The goal is to push you to your personal physical, mental and emotional edge so that you will stop, turn around, or give up the pursuit of your career dreams.

When Mark Whitaker applied for the position as Editor of Newsweek Magazine, he received countless remarks from friends and acquaintances alike, discouraging him from pursuing his dream of becoming Editor of the magazine because of his race. Mark Whitaker's response to critics in reference to race hindering his dream:

"Maybe (it will), maybe not... But I'm not going to let it stop me from setting it as a goal."

Mark Whitaker was the Editor of Newsweek from 1998-2006 and has received awards and accolades for the work he has accomplished. Between 2004 to 2006, Whitaker served as President of the American Society of Magazine Editors. He functioned as Senior Vice President and Washington Bureau Chief for NBC News. He was Executive Vice President and Managing Editor of CNN Worldwide from 2011 to 2013.

What pusher is stopping you from setting and achieving your career dreams and goals? A pusher does not know or understand that they too were created with purpose. When pushers understand that they will be able to focus on pursuing their own purpose and career goals.

What To Do When a Pusher Knocks You Down

1. Land on your back- Your next step is determined by what you see when you open your eyes after you have fallen. If you look up, the heavens are above you with the light from the sun. Your limits are set by the heavens. Talk about unlimited opportunities and possibilities! If you are looking down when you open your eyes, the ground is beneath you. Prospects from this position will lead to death and burial of your career dreams.

"If you can look up, you can get up!"

Les Brown

2. Get up and find strength in your cheerleaders. Also consider the services of a career counselor, or personal coach. In addition to cheerleaders, take time for prayer and meditation. You have a spirit, soul (mind, will and emotions) and a body. Nourish your spirit (the essence of who you are) and your soul. Step away from situations and your dreams for a short period to physically reflect.

"Leaving behind nights of terror and fear

I rise. Into a daybreak that wondrously clear

I rise. Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave

I am the dream and hope of the slave; I rise. I rise,

I rise."

Maya Angelou

3. Encourage yourself- You are standing, and the pushers did not get the best of you.

"Every limitation you've overcome, every fear you've conquered, has equipped you to help lift somebody else - otherwise, they're wasted experiences."

Word For Today

Use this and every experience as foundational steppingstones to reach for your business dreams. There will be times throughout your journey when you will feel pushed down. Remember, if you can look up, you not only can get up, but you open the door to unlimited possibilities because you never counted yourself out!

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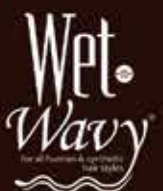
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School of Business, Management, and Technology Student Receives ANA Education Foundation Inaugural Scholarship



The School of Business, Management, and Technology (SBMT) announces a scholarship recipient within one of their departments.

Bre'cha Byrd is the lead-off recipient for the Association of National Advertisers' (ANA) Education Foundation (AEF) inaugural scholarship. The better part of this award is the mentorship and access. On a separate note, the university has also been gifted membership into ANA membership this year, a premier resource for the advertising industry.

Ms. Byrd is a business administration major, a published author and motivational speaker. She also earned an athletic scholarship for women's basketball, designed her bookcover, directed a promotional video and created social media for readers to follow her journey.

Ms. Byrd was selected to receive the Association of National Advertisers (ANA) Educational Foundation's HBCU Scholarship. The Selection Committee was impressed by her academic achievements and interest in an advertising, marketing or PR careers. She was one of six sophomores to receive this \$5,000 scholarship.

Additionally, she will be mentored by an industry executive during her junior and senior years. Being a recipient of this HBCU Scholarship means that you are also a member of our MADE Online where you will find open access to career and industry resources, virtual events, certification programs, and mentorship.

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Gateway to US Government Grants-www.students.gov

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American Scholars Academy-www.naas.org
www.xensei.com

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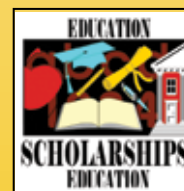
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Zoom grid of HBCU students.

COMING 2 AMERICA OFFERS RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR WSSU STUDENT

Reuben Rink

WSSU STUDENT INTERVIEWS EDDIE MURPHY AND ARSENIO HALL

Taylor Adams is a big fan of *Coming To America*, the 1988 comedy blockbuster starring Eddie Murphy and Arsenio Hall.

The Winston-Salem State University senior may be an even bigger fan of *Coming 2 America* after getting to interview the stars of the recently released sequel.

“I grew up with the (original) movie. I was very familiar with the first one. I knew who the cast members were and the plot,” said Taylor, a Greensboro native who will be graduating from WSSU in May. She added everyone participating in the project was required to watch *Coming 2 America* before the

interviews.

Murphy and Hall starred in the 1988 version of the movie, a romantic comedy based on a story written by Murphy. The original earned over \$288 million worldwide and was the third-highest-grossing film in the United States that year.

In the 1988 movie, Murphy plays the lead character, Akeem Joffer, the crown prince of the fictional African nation of Zamunda, who comes to the United States with the hopes of finding a bride.

In the sequel, which was released March 5, Akeem, again played by Murphy, discovers he has a long-lost son in the

United States and returns to America to meet his unknown heir and build a relationship with him.

The opportunity to interview the movie’s key cast members ... Murphy, Hall, Tracy Morgan, Jermaine Fowler and Rotimi ... was a unique situation. A dozen Historically Black Colleges and Universities were asked to select one student each to participate in a Zoom roundtable interview with the stars. Each of the students got to ask one question of each of the actors and each actor appeared separately.

Taylor, a mass communications major concentrating in public relations, was selected to represent WSSU. Taylor said

she was selected because the project fell under the umbrella of the mass communications department.

“This whole process happened pretty quickly,” said Adams. “I got a call from Dr. (Brian) Blount (chairman of the department of communication and media studies) about an interview opportunity and that I would be getting a call from someone else soon.”

And that quick turnaround helped keep her nerves under control Adams said.

“The way I felt about it, because it was a short notice, all I had time to think

about was the process more than anything else, making sure I was there on time,” said Adams. “And then the call was so casual. It was very comfortable for all of us.”

Adams’ questions were mostly concerned with the social and cultural impact and implication of various parts of the movie.

“I definitely believe they (her questions) were well-received,” said Adams. “The response to my questions seemed like they (the actors) were very interested. They elaborated on the answers and spent some time on the answers.”

Adams said she didn’t understand the magnitude of the opportunity until she had a chance to review the roundtable several days later.

“It wasn’t until we got the recording of the interview when I got to look back and see all the scenes ... that put it all in perspective,” said Adams. “I don’t think I was nervous. I wanted to make sure I could ask the questions properly. I didn’t get star-struck because everyone was so casual and comfortable. Maybe in person it would have been different.”



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ALLEN UNIVERSITY HEADS TO SPACE WITH THE BOEING COMPANY



Allen University heads to space with corporate partner The Boeing Company. The institution is one of 14 historically black colleges and universities that Boeing is commemorating on its CST-100 Starliner second Orbital Flight Test (OFT-2).

Of the 14 institutions, 13 have a recruiting partnership. Allen University differs in that it formed a partnership with The Boeing Company to establish the Boeing Institute on Civility. The institute will be a national hub for teaching and programming aimed at advancing civil discourse in America and across the globe.

The announcement comes some eight months after Allen University President and CEO, Dr. Ernest McNealey, spoke about the reach of The Boeing Company. Flags, small pennants and other items representing select HBCUs from throughout the U.S. will be part of the approximately 760 pounds of cargo flying inside the Starliner's crew module when it launches to the International Space Station for OFT-2.

"The reach of The Boeing Company is particularly compatible with the University's aspiration to demonstrate that service to the greater good does not stop in one's own community, but has the obligation to be expansive," said Allen University President and CEO Ernest McNealey.

Boeing is targeting Friday, July 30, to launch the uncrewed vehicle atop an Atlas V from Space Launch Complex-41 from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

The CST-100 Starliner is a full-service orbital crew transportation vehicle providing all elements needed to transport crew and cargo to and from low Earth orbit destinations, including crew training and mission planning, spacecraft and launch vehicle assembly, integration and testing, and crew and cargo recovery. The goal is to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective access to space, beginning with NASA missions to the International Space Station.



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Facebook Selects Recent ASU Graduate for Exclusive Summer HBCU News Fellowship Program

By: Kenneth Mullinax/ASU

Facebook has selected a recent graduate of Alabama State University as one of only 25 undergraduates and recent grads nationwide to participate in a paid fellowship in the “Facebook (FB) Journalism Project Summer HBCU News Fellowship,” which pairs these Fellows with nationally renowned newsrooms in the United States to serve as reporters and online contributors during an eight-week fulltime work period throughout the summer.

Indira Gooding (Class of Spring 2020) has accepted an assignment to serve as a content contributor with “The Root” online magazine. Gooding, a native of the greater Boston/Cambridge, Mass., area, said she started fulltime work on June 7 and will continue through Aug. 2. The Root is an African-American oriented online magazine launched in 2008 by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Donald Graham. Owned by The Slate Group, the magazine is considered among the “gold standard” of online news outlets in the nation.

“Being awarded this fellowship has caused me to be super-excited to be one of only a little over two dozen people selected by Facebook executives,” Gooding said by phone from Atlanta. “My Facebook contacts told me they were impressed with the professionalism of the content of the material that I submitted to them as part of my application process and this excites me because it opens the door and allows me and my work to be seen and appreciated by an elite group of online media experts and professionals who can help me move beyond the Fellowship to fulltime employment on a national scale.”

WHAT THE FELLOWSHIP ENTAILS

This program elevates emerging African-American future media professionals by pairing them with established national and local news organizations across the U.S. Fellows will work to enhance the organization’s presence on Facebook and Instagram by developing youth-relevant and culturally inclusive story angles.

Gooding, who holds a degree in communications from ASU, said she is already heavily involved for The Root with social media and video-track editing work on news media subjects relating to culture,



entertainment, politics and other topics. She said that she is working with several of its editors and project managers with an ultimate goal not only to create content and copy for The Root, but also to increase engagement and move people to access the magazine’s content on both Facebook and Instagram.

Those selected for these 25 coveted Fellowships will work at some of the nation’s finest news organizations, allowing them to gain real-world experience and putting their media careers on the fast-track. Participating newsrooms and organizations beyond The Root online magazine include The Boston Globe, PBS NewsHour, Chicago Tribune, ESSENCE, Women’s Health, Fox Television Network, Washington Post, Mundo Hispanico and Univision.

ASU’s Dr. L. Simone Byrd, a professor of Public Relations and a recently chosen Fulbright U.S. Scholar, believes this Fellowship will give Gooding just what she needs to be noticed by the nation’s major media outlets and launch a national career.

“This is a really exciting Fellowship for Indira whom I am sure will blossom in her role with The Root. The news media is pushing to better diversify its staff and content so their coverage is fair and equitable, and they now have one of the most gifted students that I have seen in ASU’s communication’s department in quite a while,” Byrd said.

GOODING CREDITS THE UNIVERSITY FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY

The new Fellow from ASU credits her experiences at Alabama State University, both in and out of the classroom, with propelling her to this new threshold of opportunity.

“Alabama State University’s department of Communication’s faculty and its ability to teach and inspire me is the reason that I now have this great career opportunity,” Gooding said. “ASU helped me discover who I am, explore diverse ideas in communications and pushed me to apply what I learned for this fellowship. The University taught me all that I needed to know to be an effective communicator and now I am going to put it to work for The Root.”

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENT INTERNS AT ROCK CENTRAL



Shiloh Williams



Shiloh Williams, a junior at Grambling State University (GSU), is completing a virtual internship with Rock Central. The Detroit-based professional services company focuses on human resources, accounting, technology, and more.

Williams, of Houston, Texas, is earning a degree in computer science with a minor in mathematics at GSU. He is interning in Rock Central's software engineering department this summer. The section focuses on such areas as programming and systems design, implementation, and administration.

"I started May 21, 2021 and will conclude August 17, 2021," Williams said. "I hope to learn the process of engineering a product and pushing it out for public use. So far, I have been learning a lot and I have implemented a lot within the company., I am very excited to continue my development as a programmer."

He said the skills and processes that he is learning are helping to prepare him for a career in computer science.

"When I graduate, I would like to switch between machine learning and software engineering," Williams said. "During the internship, I've learned a lot such as how to use Git (version control system used to store code), three more languages to program in, and backend and UI (User Interface) development."

About Rock Central

Rock Central is a professional services company that supports the growth within its Rock Family of Companies and it provides the services that its clients need to evolve while allowing them to focus on their business. The company's expertise encompasses human resources, accounting, technology, legal services and more. From helping companies who are just getting started to working with experienced industry veterans, Rock Central's teams partner with enterprises to help them go further.

ONE ECHS GRADUATE STORY A NO-COST COLLEGE EDUCATION

By Tahara Johnson



Destiny King, a 2018 graduate of the Early College High School and a 2018 graduate of Delaware State University, is now planning to enroll in Delaware State's Chemistry Master Degree Program. Her academic progression is a stellar example of the benefits of the ECHS.

DELAWARE STATE GRAD SHOWS BENEFIT OF EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

From its 2014 beginning, Delaware State University's Early College High School has been touted as an education route that can save its graduates thousands of dollar in higher education cost by allow its student to earn college credit while completing their secondary school education.

Destiny King – who was among the first graduating class in 2018 – has become one of the most prolific examples of the ECHS' college savings benefits.

Moreover, Ms. King is a poster child for academic excellence and the expanded possibilities the ECHS can create for students – not only in preparing them for

college, but also by permitting them to take University classes while in the ECHS.

By the time Ms. King graduated from the Early College High School in 2018, she had already earned 60 college credit hours. After enrolling as a Delaware freshman, it took Ms. King only two more years to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences with a minor in Chemistry. Now she plans to remain at Del State and begin her graduate studies in the fall in the Chemistry Master's Degree Program.

She said her experience in the ECHS made her transition as a full-time Del State student easier. "Moving onto campus was easier, a smooth transition," Ms. King said. "There were study groups, tutors, and professors."

The seeds for her academic success were sown by her mother Timeka King. When Destiny was eight years old, when her mother



Destiny King (l) with her research mentor Adam Mazurkiewicz in Poland.

told her that she took her first college course when she was 16 years old. After Ms. King enrolled in the ECHS, her mother further challenged her by noting that any grade below 85% was unacceptable. Destiny not only took her first college courses when she was 14, her high school grade point average was above 4.0.

While Destiny excelled, she did face some challenges. “The first semester after middle school into high school, it was a steep learning curve,” she said. “I took 10 credits, but I had a lot of resources and support to get through it.”

She said her time at the ECHS was more like a college experience from the start, and added that it gave her the foundation to be successful at Del State.

Her academic excellence at the ECHS also removed the financial pressure of college. In addition to completing two years’ worth of college credits tuition-free before she matriculated at Del State, she earned enough in scholarships to pay from the remaining two undergraduate years.

Ms. King offers the following advice for students who enroll at the ECHS. “Have a good relationship with your professor/teacher from the start, show up, ask questions, and make sure they know who you are. Take it seriously in the beginning. I know it is high school and you want to have fun, but prioritize and learn to practice time management; you do not want to get behind.”

She added that the ECHS teachers are there to help and want to see students succeed. “Especially when doing something

this extraordinary – starting college at 14*,” Ms. King said. “Put the effort in and they will help you get there.”

Her undergraduate journey also included a 2019 study-abroad experience in Poland, in which she and other Del State students did individual research projects at the Uniwersytet Technologiczno-Przyrodniczy (University of Science and Technology) in Bydgoszcz, Poland. Her research project was on “The Measurement of Basic Strength Properties of Trabecular and Cortical Bones.”

“It has been really nice seeing different cultures here and learning history from another viewpoint. It is really

fascinating how this country persevered through so much,” Ms. King said in a 2019 interview for a University article. “There was more mechanics involved in this research than I am used to. I want to be a dentist, which involves bones, so this was kind of a transition over to what my future career is, so I was happy to get this project.”

The Poland experience was just one example of what Ms. King found appealing about Delaware State University. “I found Del State to be a hidden gem among many other colleges,” she said. “There are always opportunities to do research and join organizations.

Ms. King finished her undergraduate years with a 3.72 GPA. While she is looking forward to graduate school at Del State, she also still aspires to be a dentist.

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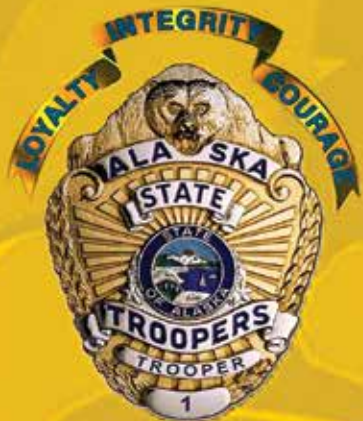


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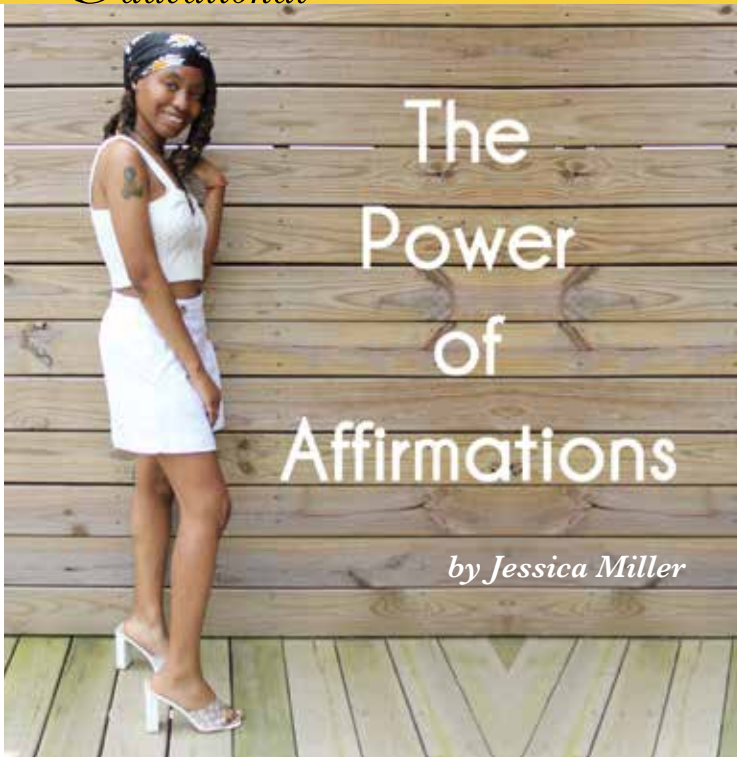


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What are Affirmations?

An affirmation is a short, powerful statement. Affirmations allow you to consciously be in control of your thoughts. An affirmation is carefully constructed to have the most impact. When you say them or think about them, they become the thoughts that shape your reality. Research has proven that around 80% of the 50,000 subconscious thoughts you have in a day are negative ones. That is a lot of negativity! Affirmations make you consciously aware of your thoughts. So when you consciously think positive thoughts, it is easier to control the negative ones that are always threatening to take over, which creates anxiety, depression, stress, and etc.

To affirm is to say something positively. So an affirmation is firmly declaring a positive thought and assertively stating it as a truth.

By making these positive statements a part of your daily life, you are feeding your mind positivity.

How to write affirmations?

Step 1: "I am..."

Beginning your affirmation with the words 'I am' makes it powerful. It uses language that gives your subconscious

mind a command. Your mind then interprets it as a directive that it must follow through on.

Step 2: Use present tense

Speak about things as if you already have them. It helps your mind to visualise the outcome. For example, you can use 'I have a great credit score, instead of renting an apartment next year, I will look into getting a house.'

Step 3: Speak about what you do want

Do not use negatives in your affirmation. Your subconscious mind does not recognise negatives. So if you say, 'I can't pass this test, all your mind hears is 'I can't pass this test.' Instead of saying "I can't," try saying 'I am passing my test'.

Step 4: Keep it brief

When it comes to writing affirmations, you don't have to write an essay. There's no limit, literally write anything that will keep your spirits lifted. It is easier to remember something that is short and sweet. Think "I naturally choose healthy foods", rather than "I always choose healthy foods over junk food because I'm mindful of my health".

Step 5: Be specific

Including a specific makes it easier for your mind to visualise the outcome. So instead of saying, 'I will increase my income this year', say 'I am enjoying my \$100,000 earnings this year'.

Step 6: Write it for you

Make sure your affirmations describe your own actions and not the actions of others.

Step 7: Make it mean something

Make sure your affirmation means something to you. It has to be meaningful on all levels. Speaks to you and crafted correctly. Believe it, receive it, and you shall achieve it!



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WHAT'S HOT ON THE NET!

WELCOME BACK TO BCT'S WHAT'S HOT ON THE NET! WE'RE GIVING YOU THE LATEST NEWS ON CELBRITIES ACROSS THE WORLD! SO LET'S GET INTO IT!!!

It looks like a **Bernie Mac** biopic is in the works! **John Legend's** production company, **Get Lifted**, is set to produce the film. A release date has not been announced but we are looking forward to it. We'll update you as soon as more details are released!

Speaking of movies, summer is here! Movie theaters have reopened and there are a few must see movies! Be sure to check out **Respect**. **Respect** is the new film about the life of legend **Aretha Franklin**. **Jennifer Hudson** stars as Aretha Franklin. **Respect** also features **Forest Whitaker, Mary J. Blige, Marlon Wayans** and many other celebrities. Watch the journey from singing in the choir to becoming the queen of soul!

It's finally here! **Space Jam 2** is in theaters now! **NBA** icon **Lebron James** stars in the sequel. **Space Jam** although animated, has cameos from celebrities in the form of voiceovers from **Zendaya, Michael B. Jordan, Don Cheadle** and

Sonequa Martin-Green. **NBA** players **Damian Lillard, Chris Paul, Anthony Davis** and **Klay Thompson** also star in **Space Jam 2** which is directed by **Malcolm D. Lee**.

Kevin Hart switches things up from fun to serious in his latest movie, **Fatherhood**. **Fatherhood** is a **Netflix** release which showcases Hart's plays **Matthew Logelin**, a single father who is raising his daughter alone after his wife passes away while giving birth. **Kevin** did an amazing job in this in role and so did **Melody Hurd** who plays his daughter, **Maddy Logelin**.

Shout to former **NBA** great **Gary Payton**. "The Glove" recently accepted a head coaching position at **Lincoln University** in his hometown of **Oakland, California**. 2021-2022 will be the first year that **Lincoln University** begins its sports program and gives **Payton** an incredible opportunity to immediately put the program on the map. **Gary** is an **Oakland** legend who spent most of his **NBA** career with the

Seattle Supersonics. Known for his incredible defense and trash talking on the court, **Payton** is looking to recruit tough players who are willing to work hard and grind.

Shout out to **Lil Baby!** Riding the success of his recent release with **Lil Durk, Voice of the Heroes**, his career is moving nonstop! He recently became just the 8th hip hop artist to have 90 songs on the Hot 100 Chart! He joins some exclusive company! **Eminem, Jay-Z, Kanye West, Nicki Minaj, Future, Lil Wayne and Drake** are the other artists who have reached this milestone.

As far as new music goes, here's what we are listening to:

Doja Cat – Planet Her

H.E.R. – Back of My Mind

Lil Durk & Lil Baby – Voice of the Heroes

Migos – Culture III

THAT'S IT FOR THIS EDITION OF WHAT'S HOT ON THE NET. BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE LATEST CELEBRITY NEWS IN THE NEXT EDITION OF BCT!!!

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