



Alexandria Washington, Florida A & M University- c/o 2020, Health Promotion



Name : Alexandria Washington

Your HBCU : Florida A & M University

Graduation Year : 2020

Major : Health Promotion

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

I grew up in Melbourne, Florida attending predominantly white public schools. In middle school one of my teachers took our class to visit her alma mater Bethune Cookman, but I never really thought much of the experience. When I was in high school HBCUs were recruiting me to play softball and that's when I seriously started to explore the value they have always brought to our society.



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

I always wanted to be a college athlete and Florida A&M University gave me the best offer to fulfill that dream. Part of me was also yearning for an experience different from what I had.

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

Florida A&M University made me who I am today. If I did not attend FAMU I would not have been named one of Tallahassee's 25 Women You Need to Know, I would have never written for Forbes, I would have never been a TedX speaker, and I would have never been recognized by the White House as a White House HBCU Allstar. You see the thing they never tell you about HBCUs is that they breed excellence. You don't come out the same person you went in. HBCUs show you your potential and cheer you on 'til you reach your potential. FAMU did not allow me to be complacent. I was surrounded by people that wanted more and fought for everything they had. There is no way I could have achieved what I have if I was not in the environment of an HBCU.

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

Besides being around my family for family reunions this was really the first time I had been around so many people that looked like me. It honestly was a culture shock coming to FAMU, but I would do it again in a heartbeat.

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

All of the professors in the Institute of Public Health. Dr. Lopez, Dr. Harris, Dr. Close, Dr. Lee, Dr. Boston, honestly they all have played a nurturing role during my most difficult times. They helped me up during my lowest points and they encouraged me to aim higher when it came to achieving my dreams.



6. If you could only speak two sentences to the youth coming after you what would you say?

The key to success is not who you know. The key is who knows you and will vouch for your character.