



**Erica Alcox, South Carolina State University- c/o 1996, Family and Consumer Sciences**



**Name :** Erica Alcox  
**Your HBCU :** South Carolina State University  
**Graduation Year :** 1996  
**Major :** Family and Consumer Sciences  
**Minor :** Nutrition

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

Being from Charleston, SC was almost the gateway to Orangeburg and SC State University. My mother graduated from State and exposed me to the Bulldog Tenacity early!



Mompreneur, Proud SCSU Alum and Author of #OkraSoupForYourSpirit, Erica Alcox

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

I was always the “token black girl” in a lot of stuff I did from elementary through high school so being able to live and learn about me around others who looked like me just did something for my soul! That small college town taught me unity, self love, excellence and really just how magnificent

we really are. I found myself at SCSU!

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

Quite simply put. I woke up. I was "educated" instead of taught. I blossomed as a leader where in previous settings I was the assistant or in the background. SCSU is the ONLY place in the world where people call me by my whole name and it is said with affection. Instructors truly held me to higher expectations than anyone ever had because they didn't see my being outspoken as a threat. They saw it as a gift and a calling.

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

N/A

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

My Human Growth and Development instructor, Dr. McArthur was THE interruption to all foolishness I had been fed. He taught me how to think and not memorize. He showed me it was absolutely ok to question what was written and to dare impose my thoughts on theories based on my experiences. That was the beginning of a beautiful intellectual journey.



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**6. What is your major? and Why did you choose it?**

I majored in Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Nutrition and Food

Management. No other college offered it in SC except for a PWI. I knew early that I enjoyed food and business. Combining the two just made sense and studying at an HBCU was the cherry on top. It gave me the foundation I needed to teach OUR youth for over 15 years and evolved into me becoming an entrepreneur with my business The Charleston Crunch Co.! (CharlestonCrunchCo.com)

### **7. Which professors have impacted your life the most at your HBCU?**

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