



John Williams, Albany State University- c/o 2016, Biology



Name : John Williams

Your HBCU : Albany State University

Graduation Year : 2016

Major : Biology

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

I am from Albany, Ga. My mother attended Albany State College in the 70s, and therefore, it became a second home for me.



Mr. Williams, Jr. educating the youth

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

I always wanted a deeper connection with my culture and my people. While I am sure I could have found a way to get this connection at a PWI if needed, the environment at Albany State University made the process of developing an identity within my racial and cultural demographic an easy process

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

Albany State University gave me the opportunity to explore the world, both academically and socially, and use those experiences to build my foundation for the future. While at ASU, I studied abroad in Germany, presented research in Puerto Rico, and conducted research at several academic institutions nationally. I can't possibly tell you exactly how beneficial these experiences have been, as the overall impact is incalculable.



Dr. JoAnn McCrary

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?*

Dr. JoAnn McCrary has been one of my staunchest advocates and supporters from undergraduate studies through my Ph.D. and into my current career. She is the professor that I credit with helping me to navigate the waters of academia and to develop resilience when it comes to the challenges in STEM fields. Now, as colleagues, we continue to collaborate on opportunities that can help our students, and I am blessed to work with her daily. Drs. Mary and Benjamin Lawson were two other professors that really helped me to enjoy my undergraduate education at ASU. This husband and wife duo worked diligently with the students of the Honors Program to help us with writing, communication, and overall academic development. To this day, they keep in touch with me in order to provide encouragement and support ... even though they have long retired from the institution.

