



Kendra Barclay, Alabama A & M University- c/o 2016, Elementary Education Concentration in Science & Math



Name : Kendra Barclay

Your HBCU : Alabama A & M University

Graduation Year : 2016

Major : Elementary Education Concentration in Science & Math

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

I am from South Carolina, and I was introduced to HBCUs by my mom. She was the first in our family to attend SCSU, and she took me there and spoke highly of it often. I am the third one in our family to attend State, and I have a cousin there now.



Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. (pronounced high-guinea) is the 11th President of Alabama A&M University.

He earned the bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from South Carolina State University and the doctorate in Higher Education/Institutional Research

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

I had been a student in predominantly white schools all my life. I had friends in school of different races, but I also had an abundance of negative interactions because of my race. I already loved South Carolina State University, and watching A Different World and School Daze as a youngster also propelled me to want my own HBCU experience!

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

I say all the time that South Carolina State University saved my life. As mentioned earlier, I dealt with on almost a daily basis racist comments, etc. in grade school. I naturally developed "thicker skin", but on the inside, I was broken. I don't know that anybody knew the extent to which I internally wrestled with insecurities because of my complexion, feeling invisible in my AP classes, etc. Once I became a student at State, I belonged. I wasn't "too dark". My professors addressed me by my name. I was challenged to be better. I was and still am PROUD to be a Bulldog!

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?*

By far, my favorite professor was Dr. Andrew Hugine. As an Education major, I had to take one of his Math courses. I was apprehensive about the class because Math had never been my strong suit. However, Dr. Hugine was the consummate professional. His approach to teaching was patient and motivating.