



## **Tammika Thomas, Harris-Stowe State University- c/o 2014, Education**



**Name :** Tammika Thomas

**Your HBCU :** Harris-Stowe State University

**Graduation Year :** 2014

**Major :** Education

**Minor :** Psychology

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

I was born and raised in Carson, California. I was introduced to HBCUs by Spike Lee in School Daze. But it was TLC who introduced me to Grambling State University.



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

Initially I chose an HBCU because I was interested in knowing what it felt like to be encapsulated in Blackness. Upon my return to school, I chose an HBCU because I knew that no one would understand me or my educational needs like a school that was designed with me in mind.

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

I'm a proud alumna of TWO historically Black universities as I've had the privilege of attending both Grambling State and Harris-Stowe State University in my educational journey. I matriculated at Grambling at the age of 18. While I got off to a great start in the place "where everybody is somebody," it would not be until after I moved to St. Louis, MO and started a family that I would answer the call that was upon my life. I returned to college as a mother of 5 at the age of 32 to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. Harris-Stowe welcomed me with open arms, and allowed me to pick up right where I'd left off. I graduated in 2014 with a B.S. in education. I earned an M.Ed in 2017, and am currently pursuing a doctorate in educational psychology. Most importantly, I'm a Harris-Stowe mom! My eldest daughter is entering her 3rd year at the institution and that's perhaps the one thing I am most proud of!!!

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

Grambling-Friendship, True Freedom, Road Trips, Homecoming, Bayou Classic, Bounce music, meeting rappers not from Cali or New York. It was truly the best of times!

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

Grambling - Dr. Helen Richards Harris-Stowe- Dr. Betty Porter-Walls Both of these dynamic

women taught me that the classroom was not a place for games and that there was no one on this Earth more capable of getting in my way than me. I would not be the woman I am today without their tough love.



Copyright © 2008 - 2020 | [MyHBCUInterview.com](https://MyHBCUInterview.com) | All Rights Reserved.