



Tokiwa Smith, Florida A & M University- c/o 2016, Chemistry



Name : Tokiwa Smith

Your HBCU : Florida A & M University

Graduation Year : 2016

Major : Chemistry

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

I grew up in Miami, Florida. I have two aunts that are graduates of HBCU's, Florida A & M University and Fort Valley State University. Growing up in Miami, there were a lot of HBCU alumni. Several of the women that were a part of the village that helped raised me were FAMU alumni and my childhood dentist were FAMU alumni.



Dr. Wesson, currently the VP of Research and Development at UMES;

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

I chose to attend an HBCU over a PWI, because I wanted to spend my college years in an environment that would prepare me academically and provide a nurturing environment while preparing for my post graduation options. I also know that when you are at a HBCU, you know that recruiters are looking to hire students of African descent; that isn't always the case at PWI.

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

I had a great experience at FAMU, I truly experienced "excellence with caring" while matriculating through FAMU. The majority of my professors cared about my academic success as well as provided guidance with my personal and professional development.

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?*

I had several professors that impacted me in and out of the classroom, Mr. Harvey my Calculus 1 and 2 professor that gave me confidence in my ability to do higher level math and taught me that it is okay to ask for support when I need it.