

Jasmine Cooper

Outstanding Student Award - Biographical Summary

Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” My parents used to say this quote to me every day before school. They wanted me to understand the importance of education and the power that it had, however, I never fully understood that importance until arriving at Monmouth University and becoming involved on campus. Having the opportunity to attend an institution of higher education is a privilege that not everyone is afforded. From my time at Monmouth, I have become forever grateful for the mentorship, opportunities and experiences that this campus has afforded me. In return, I have worked tirelessly to give back to the school that has developed me into the leader I am today. My goal before leaving Monmouth was not just to gain leadership experience, but more importantly to help develop the next generation of leaders for the legacy to continue.

During my time at Monmouth, I have immersed myself in the campus community by continuing to be an active member of organizations including the National Council of Negro Women, Black Student Union and Chamber Orchestra. Within the National Council of Negro Women, I have had the pleasure to serve as President for the past three years in order to create a welcoming and safe space for students of color on campus. However, what I am most proud of is mentoring the next generation of student leaders in my organization in order to ensure that the mission of organization continues.

In addition to extracurricular activities, I have also worked for the Office of Residential Life for the past three years, first as a Resident Assistant and later a Head Resident Assistant for my junior and senior year. Being a resident assistant has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had at Monmouth because of the bonds and connections I created with

younger students and watching them grow. As Head Resident Assistant, I have worked with new RAs in order to guide them during their first year as an RA.

In the Fraternity and Sorority Life community I have been a member of my organization Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated since being initiated in Spring 2018. I have held every position in my organization and was selected as a 2020 Leadership Fellow on the international level of my organization. But most importantly, I brought in new members of the organization who since initiation have worked to make a difference on the campus community.

Overall, I am forever grateful to Monmouth University for the connections that I have formed, the skills I have developed and the knowledge I have gained. I am excited to pursue my dream of becoming an attorney by attending law school in the fall with a generous academic scholarship. Without the help and support of this campus, I would not be where I am today. My only hope is that my presence here on campus has helped developed the change makers of tomorrow.