

# Student Profile



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**I will never be able to recall the day that I decided to go into medicine.** It was simply something that was in me, a natural curiosity and love for science, like a seed that God had planted but not quite yet ready to grow. Little by little, I began to encounter different people who began cultivating that seed. Whether it was my mother constantly pushing me in my studies, and giving me my first guide to Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs), or my Pediatrician educating me about the Tuskegee Syphilis Study when he learned of my application and subsequent acceptance to Tuskegee University, each moment strategically guided me on the path to serve.

While a Chemistry major at Tuskegee, I took a course in Bioethics. It was in this class that I learned not only about the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, but the long standing effects within the African American community regarding healthcare. After receiving my Bachelor of Science, I spent nearly four years performing translational research in Ophthalmology. While reading about different ocular conditions, I specifically focused on Glaucoma and its effects in the African American population. This, like the course in Bioethics, again brought my attention to health disparities within minority populations. Due to the pharmacotherapeutics research I was performing, I decided to pursue graduate studies in Pharmacology. However, this plan changed after having a conversation with a man within the Ophthalmology Department who had an esteemed and admirable career, Dr. Edelhauser. We were casually discussing my career goals, and it was as if he could sense the hesitation. He simply asked, "What are your ultimate career goals?" I answered, "To focus on treating and preventing disease within the African-American community, to close the gap." His reply came so easy, "Well it sounds like you should be in Medicine. You can always come back to research."

Once I began studying Medicine at the University of Kansas, I was again faced with the great disparities within the health-care system. For residency, I knew I needed to train at an institution with not only a reputation for tackling these issues, but was continuing to actively address them year after year. This naturally led me to Morehouse School of Medicine. With the continued success and growth of Morehouse School of Medicine, access for minority populations will improve as well, providing the care that so many desperately need. I am grateful to be among the fortunate to provide care for such populations. Morehouse School of Medicine has granted me the chance to achieve what was truly a lifelong dream. They have given a seed that was planted many years ago room to grow, in hopes of affecting lives for years to come.