



My name is Myracle Jarmon Moore. I'm currently a 3rd year Electrical Engineering PhD student concentrating in Cyber Security at Howard University from Birmingham, AL by way of Memphis, TN. In 2021 I was filled with pride as I walked across the stage to receive my Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering. It was a moment marking the culmination of my journey throughout my years.

As the daughter among three siblings my academic pursuits have always carried a sense of responsibility. They may not represent achievements but also symbolize a commitment to paving the way for those who will follow in my footsteps. I currently serve as the Region II Chairperson for the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). This role goes beyond titles and responsibilities; it presents an opportunity for me to be a catalyst for change. I offer support, guidance, and mentorship to engineering students who face the challenges within a field predominantly dominated by the majority.

Being not only Black but a woman and an engineer comes with its unique set of obstacles. I often feel a sense of isolation and disconnection as my experiences and cultural perspectives are not always relatable to others. Dealing with forms of discrimination and microaggressions in an industry dominated by a majority group takes a toll on my mental health leading to increased stress levels and occasional feelings of loneliness.

There is a weight on my shoulders to not only represent myself but also an entire demographic making the journey more challenging. Impostor syndrome becomes a companion as I struggle with the belief that I truly belong or deserve recognition for my achievements. The absence of mentors, managers, co-workers, role models, etc... who share my background makes both professional and personal growth more difficult. Constantly adapting my communication style and behavior to fit into the prevailing engineering culture. The idea of code switching can be mentally draining and makes me feel as if I am losing my identity.

Being a Black woman in engineering means confronting challenges related to both race and gender simultaneously. The intersectionality of these experiences intensifies the impact of discrimination creating a set of stressors that others may not fully comprehend. While embracing my individuality can be empowering it requires effort to educate others and foster inclusivity. The added emotional burden contributes to the stress of navigating the field of engineering as a Black woman.

To handle this, it becomes essential to seek support, establish connections and actively advocate for inclusivity. Taking these measures plays a role, in fostering a supportive environment allowing me to navigate the obstacles of being the only black woman, in

engineering while also taking care of my mental health. Showcasing that diversity is more than just a buzzword; it is an essential driver of innovation. I take pride in confronting these challenges head on not for myself but also for those who share similar backgrounds. In our society, my role as a mentor holds significance. I find fulfillment in uplifting students who resemble me or have shared life experiences.

It's all about building a sense of community in a field that is predominantly dominated by the majority. The goal is to create an environment where everyone regardless of their background can thrive and make contributions. Looking ahead my ambitions go beyond the sphere. After I graduate my plan is to become an adjunct professor, driven by my desire to inspire the generation of engineers while also providing real world expertise to the classroom. It's my way of giving back and passing on the support and mentorship that I have received while also working towards a future that embraces inclusivity.

In essence my journey isn't solely focused on earning accolades and degrees; it's about making an impact in a field where diversity poses both challenges and strengths. As a Black woman engineer my journey has been filled with achievements, obstacles to. An ongoing commitment to creating an inclusive and fair future for all.