

Black Male Testimonial



Picture it. The Summer of 1992 in Tallahassee, FL. A tall, skinny black teen from Panama City, FL getting out of a white van to stand upon the highest hills of the beautiful county of Leon at the campus of the illustrious Florida A&M University. He was overwhelmed with mixed feelings about his purpose for being on this historically black college campus but understood the significance and importance of being chosen to participate in a University President's Office sponsored summer program constructed to help at-risk, young black men such as himself to elevate and facilitate within themselves a better way of life through a college education. That tall, skinny black kid was me.

My name is Domeco D. Mays and I am a 1997 graduate of Florida A&M University who majored in Education and minored in Psychology. I went on to become a US Air Force veteran, Florida PREP-level, FHSA-certified sports coach, and a Customer Service/Office Management Professional. I can readily assure you those accomplishments (the first in my family's known history) would not have been possible without the **Black Male College Explorers Program**.

Though it is no longer the early 1990's, when it comes to the current state of young black men having the proper psychosocial tools to navigate their uncultivated, urban environments, nothing much has changed. For 30 years now, this small but powerful summer program at FAMU has done more than its part to provide at-risk black male youth with not only the tools they need to overcome their various personal hurdles but the spark and interest they needed to go the distance in educating and bettering themselves.

I cannot personally express in words what it was like to receive one on one mentorship from other black males FAMU upperclassmen set to begin their various careers and class instruction from tenured FAMU College of Education professors (at no personal cost to ourselves). This program was instrumental in making me who I am today as an educated, working black professional and I'm also very proud to say that I am the first product of the **Black Male College Explorers Program** to graduate from a fully accredited university (Florida A&M). This program is very much still needed (state and, honestly nation-wide) and must live on.