



## NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS 2019



### Christopher Antron Brown

Now that he has graduated from Wiley College, former Senior Counselor/Director of Summer Bridge Program for Enrollment Management, Chris Brown embark on a new life. He is the true example of the maxim: "It's not where you come from but where you are going."

For the Wiley College National Alumni Association, Inc. Outstanding Young Alum of the Year, Chris Brown's education was always at the forefront in his life. He was raised by a single parent mother, who worked hard to provide for him and his younger siblings and to make sure they were afforded all of the opportunities that she didn't have. "Higher education was highly promoted in my household. I am the first one to graduate. My great grandmother didn't have a degree, my grandmother, nor my mother."

Brown, who was born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana, says life growing up wasn't easy, but he always saw a way out. "Sometimes we went without. Sometimes, you know, utilities were disconnected, but my mom made sure that at the end of the day, that they were turned back on, and she did what she could" to make sure things worked out for the family, he says. "I knew that I could only get out of this mess, get out of this struggle, if I promote myself with an education".

So, I attended Wiley College and here I am today." Chris graduated in 2016 with a degree in interdisciplinary studies with a background in global administration and criminology. He is currently pursuing his master's in public administration at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. He says his education from Wiley changed his life. "Wiley has given me an opportunity to be an example for young people across the country and in my city and state. It allows me to be their voice and to help them find their voice. "Wiley allows you to speak up for what you believe in and don't back down for anyone. And, that's what I like about it — the passion, the compassion ...," he says. His success also has been an inspiration for younger members of his family. "The further I go, the more I know that I challenge them to be greater than their current circumstances."

He's grateful for the Black College Fund, The United Negro College Fund and the education it helped support. He urges Alumni to continue "pouring into Wiley." He further states, "So many of the students that are gaining from this educational experience don't have the resources, and this is truly their only way of making it. To have resources behind you like that says that you can conquer anything in life." Brown also says that the Wiley College family isn't just helping today's students, it's paving the way for a brighter future. "If you continue to invest in the future, you'll reap the harvest of something great." Now, his goal is to be an attorney one day so that he can help reform the criminal justice system.

Chris was elected to serve as the Statewide Executive Vice President for The Young Democrats of Louisiana and served one four- year term representing Louisiana at events for Young Democrats of America and the Democratic Party. He traveled the state discussing the progress of the party with democrats and Louisiana Legislatures at annual sessions. In 2014, at age 24, Brown became the youngest candidate to run for a seat on the Monroe City School Board, District 7 Monroe, Louisiana. Mr. Brown was defeated. He's the proud Author of "Dear Absent Father, Life Being Reared by My Mother. The Strong Black Mother." Many times, people are 'written off' due to their ethnic background, their socio-economic status, or their lack of education. The purpose of this autobiography is to help people from "less than perfect" backgrounds to reach their full potential and succeed.

Mr. Brown is currently serving in the capacity of an Administrator for 8 campuses in northeast Louisiana at Louisiana Delta Community College (Monroe, Louisiana) under the University of Louisiana System. Coordinator for Student Life and Disciplinary Administrator. "It's my only hope and my only prayer that I am making a significant difference," he says. "I believe I already know (my purpose) at this point. It's to serve with a genuine heart."