



RUST COLLEGE

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Rust College Student Government President Named Among Forbes' First HBCU Fellows and Forbes Academy Students

HOLLY SPRINGS, MS - Among the 10 talented HBCU students joining the Forbes Newsroom this summer or taking masterclasses with Forbes reporters beginning this month, is Rust College Mass Communications major, Eric Johnson.

Forbes magazine named 10 HBCU students and recent graduates to participate in the Forbes Fellowship Academy, a series of masterclasses and panel discussions, taught by Forbes reporters and editors, for the purpose of providing additional expertise and opportunities to write for Forbes.

Eric Johnson, class of '21, was born in Columbus, Mississippi, and raised in Saint Louis, Missouri. Eric is a senior at Rust College, one of the oldest HBCUs in the U.S. He is a Forbes Under 30 Scholar (2019), The Rust Innovation Lab Organizer (2021) and the current Rust College Student Government Association President.

When interviewed by Forbes, Johnson said he was drawn to the world of sports journalism as a child in St. Louis, Missouri. He recalls, "During this time, podcast and radio apps on cell phones were becoming more and more popular," giving him access to the likes of "Randy Karraker, Bob Costas, Marc Spears, Doris Burke, and Dick Vitale."

Upon his arrival to Rust College, Eric thought he would pursue another passion, business and entrepreneurship. He further told Forbes, “I did not realize I wanted to pursue journalism until my work-study in WURC 88.1 FM and RCTV 2. It was like an old friend came and spent the summer with me,” he says. “My love for sports made an introduction to journalism.” Paired with his love for business, Johnson says, “that introduction has shown me the lack of parody in the world and gave me a channel to disperse that information to everyone.”

Others joining Eric on the Forbes Fellows list are Whitney Bronson (Hampton University, Class of '20, University of Georgia, Class of '22); Joshua Burrell (Morehouse College, Class of '21), Nathaniel Easington (Howard University, class of '20), Kira Grant (Howard University, class of '21), and Jair Hilburn (Morehouse College, class of '20), Forbes Academy students are Jalen Brown (Morehouse College, class of '22), Matthew Cooper (Morehouse College, class of '22) Zachary Greene (Morehouse College, class of '22), and Ashley Tate (Clark College, class of '22).

About Rust College

Rust College is a historically, Black, co-educational, senior liberal arts college founded in 1866 by the Freedmen’s Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to offer quality programs in business, education, humanities, science and math, and social science to prepare students for leadership and service in the global society.

Located in Holly Springs, MS, Rust College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate and baccalaureate degrees.

For more information about Rust College, call (662) 252-8000, ext. 4915 or visit www.rustcollege.edu.

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