



Shirquanna Freeman

Major: Communication studies

Minor: Spanish

Activities: Black Student Union, NAACP Chapter at Augustana College

Internships: Research intern at Global Communities

Post-grad plans: Take a gap year or two to work, then attend graduate school

“Advising Shay has been an absolute joy for me during her time at Augustana. She is a front-row learner, generous with sharing her thoughts, and she has grown to embrace the adventures that can come with learning outside the box. Her hard work has paid off, and it is lovely to see her see herself as I always have—as a bright and wonderful soul with a limitless future. I cannot wait to see where she goes from here.”

— Dr. Sharon Varallo, professor, communication studies

MORE THAN I IMAGINED 2018

SENIORS REFLECT ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LOOK AHEAD

Why Augustana?

I chose Augustana because when I first visited, they did a great job of making me feel welcome. I decided to stay at Augustana because the education that students receive here is like no other, and I love the one-on-one connections I have with my professors.

Are you where you thought you'd be when you first came to campus?

Coming into college I did not know what to expect, but I can say I have become more comfortable and confident in myself. I have found my voice, and Augie has helped me discover who I am as a person.

Who helped you get to where you are now?

The people who helped me throughout my journey were Michael Rogers, Sharon Varallo and Ashley Allen. These were the people I relied on for advice whether it was about life or school. Not only did these people help me, but also being a part of the Black Student Union made me feel like I had a second home away from home. Being involved saved me from missing out on great experiences.

Peak experience?

My peak experience was planning and executing the multicultural student orientation over the summer of my junior year. Planning it was such a fun experience. Although executing it was a bit stressful, I enjoyed being a huge part of the first-year students' experience here on campus. This experience was a peak for me because I realized how much of an impact I have on others, and I also found my passion while planning/executing this orientation.

What surprised you?

Over these four years, I learned that I have very strong leadership skills, and others look to me more than I noticed. I also learned that I am able to persevere through any obstacle with persistence and consistency. Lastly, I learned 8:30 a.m. classes are not my thing. lol

How did you use Augie Choice?

I used my Augie Choice to study abroad in West Africa. One of the best decisions I've ever made!

What will you miss the most?

I will miss the lovely people I have met while at Augie. Also that feeling of freedom that a college student has.

Advice for the Class of 2022?

Go out of your comfort zone and try to find what you love about Augie sooner rather than later—your college experience will be a lot better. Getting involved is the only way to find what you like to do and to make new friends.