



**BSU Philanthropy Fellows Present at the
HARAMBEE2026 Conference of
The Association for Black Foundation Executives (ABFE)**



Dion Smith



Jahlove Shakur



Vichan Cooper



Nicole Mack



Nijah Williams,
Satonya Fair, J.D.

San Francisco, CA., April 20 – 23, 2026

On April 20th, the BSU Philanthropy Fellows traveled to San Francisco to present at ABFE’s National Conference, HARAMBEE2026. Over 1,300 people were in attendance. The panel discussion topic was, “The Challenge of Diversifying the Field: Success is Still Possible.” It spoke directly to the challenges facing the field in the wake of the ongoing anti-DEI political climate. The session was moderated by BSUPI Advisory Board Member, Satonya Fair, J.D. Dr. Hyman gave a presentation chronicling how various organizations are responding to political pressures and the Fellows spoke to their aspirations and accomplishments. It was well-received and sparked many requests for information about the Fellowship Program.

Fellows also expressed their excitement with the conference. “It was such a pleasure to be in community with like-minded folks who are trying to make a difference in philanthropy for people of color,” said Jahlove Shakur. “I felt that sense of fellowship. It was a great opportunity to network with fellow believers and meet people from all over – from Chicago to Colorado to the Oakland Bay Area.”

“The conference was very enlightening for me,” said Dion Smith. “It was good to see a lot of black people together working to discover better ways to do the work of philanthropy and hearing the different perspectives on to how to go about creating better futures through

Black organizations. And I thought our presentation was a good way to introduce folks to BSU and our Philanthropy Fellowship. Folks weren't familiar with the program or with the impact fellows have made on their host organizations. So, it was good to introduce ourselves to this important audience."

"This was an amazing exposure for our students," said Dr. Hyman. "I was particularly pleased when ABFE's President and CEO, Susan Taylor-Batten, opened the conference with a shout out to Bowie State University, and to our Fellows, to thunderous applause from the over 1,300 attendees. I think it is fair to say, now, that the field knows we're here. Congratulations to our Fellows for a job well done."