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## “THE CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL:”

### Bowie State Master’s Degree Student and Philanthropy Fellow, Nijah Williams, Gets High Marks at the TIDES Network



Nijah Williams, Fellowship Class of 2026

Philanthropy Fellow, Nijah Williams, is a master’s degree student in Public Policy in the BSU MPA Program. She was recruited into the Fellowship Program in December of 2024 and assigned to begin her full-time Fellowship, last July, at the TIDES Network (TIDES). Interviews with Nijah and with her supervisor at TIDES suggest it has been a good pairing.

“Nijah has been an absolute gift to our team, and to TIDES,” said Sha-Kim Wilson, V.P. for Business Development. “Her positive energy and radiant smile have become a daily gift to our team morale, creating a more collaborative and joyful work environment. Her most immediate and impactful strength is her remarkable ability to jump into ongoing projects and propel them forward with positive effect. In the beginning of her Fellowship, it was like, okay, we’ve got Nijah working on a few projects. Now, people are asking, ‘Can we pull Nijah in for this or can we pull Nijah in for that.’ It’s just the level of excellence she brings to her work. What’s also remarkable is that she is a full-time student, and yet, you can see the diligence and excellence she brings to her deliverables. She is the consummate professional.”

For her part, Nijah is equally enthusiastic about her experience at TIDES. “I cannot fully express how valuable this fellowship experience has been to my personal and professional growth,” said Nijah. “Through this journey, I have broadened my knowledge while making meaningful contributions to a wide range of social issues. I have had countless opportunities both to connect with leaders and changemakers who are working to advance social justice and to engage with nonprofit organizations at the national and international levels. All of this has given me a deeper understanding of the structural nature of the systemic inequities affecting Black and Brown communities. These lessons have strengthened my perspective as a future leader in the philanthropic and public service sectors and will continue to shape how I approach community-focused problem-solving moving forward.”

“I am very pleased for Nijah and for TIDES,” said Dr. James Hyman, Founder of the Philanthropy Fellowship. “We designed the Fellowship with the hope of creating a program that would offer mutual benefit for our Fellows and for our hosting partners. The pairing of Nijah with TIDES is but one of many examples that our program is fulfilling its promise. The net result of our program, we believe, is to introduce talented Black and Brown young professionals into the field who, by virtue of their life experiences and/or personal affinities, can help reimagine the nation’s social policy fabric and offer new insights to inform our philanthropic strategies.”