

SPAA Graduate Profile: Kareem Willis (BA'16, MPA'17, PhD'21)

May 11, 2021



Kareem Willis (BA'16, MPA'17, PhD'21)

Full Name: Kareem K.M. Willis

Age: 29

Hometown: St. Catherine, Jamaica

Degree Program: PhD in Public Administration

Graduation Year: 2021

Why did you enroll at SPAA?

In choosing the BA program at SPAA, I found the structured environment I needed to explore my passion for community development and advocacy.

What do you hope to accomplish with your degree?

I'm recognizing that my degree opens up a plethora of doors and opportunities for me and so I'm allowing myself to explore them all. I've been able to explore that through consultation and so I hope to use my degree to add credibility and structure to my own public and nonprofit consultancy.

Favorite SPAA memory?

I fondly remember participating in the on-campus interviews and internship experiences. As a Newark transplant, navigating the landscape would have been even more difficult without these personal and professional opportunities and experiences. I made considerable progress and established many strategic relationships that have not only kept me employed, but exposed me to a variety of avenues to explore and exercise my passion.

Biggest challenge(s)?

My biggest challenge was getting out of my own head so that I could fully grasp the opportunities presented to me.

Next steps?

World Domination! Through my educational pursuits, I'm finding my voice in the fight against racial and social injustices. I want to go deeper in that work and so whatever I do will align with helping the various communities in a part of secure justice.

Advice to incoming students?

You are right where you belong. You have all that you need.

SHARE THIS



Academics

Admissions & Aid

Why Rutgers SPAA

Research

Community Engagement

Careers & Internships

About Rutgers SPAA

Newsroom

Events

People

Current Students

Future Students

International Students

Alumni

Faculty & Staff

Media

Community Partners

In Case of Emergencies

COVID-19

REQUEST INFO

APPLY NOW

GIVING

Contact SPAA

Rutgers University—Newark

Rutgers Universitywide

Rutgers Search



International Commission
on Accreditation of Public
Administration Education
and Training