

LeMoyne-Owen COLLEGE

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LeMoyne-Owen College sophomores head to New York City for Morgan Stanley mentoring program

LeMoyne-Owen College sophomores Joe Mvula (pronounced m' Voo-la) and Latosha Brooks will participate in the 2018 Morgan Stanley HBCU Markets and Modeling Day Friday (Feb. 23) in New York City.

The event will take place at Morgan Stanley offices, according to the company's website, where the students will "network with employees representing various divisions, gain valuable technical and markets focused insight through interactive workshops and become familiar with the Firm's business and culture."

In describing the event, the company, said, “At Morgan Stanley, we know that the diversity of our people is one of our greatest strengths. We strive to build an organization that is diverse in experience and background while reflecting our standards of integrity and excellence.”

Morgan Stanley covers all the students’ expenses for the trip.

Mvula and Brooks were chosen to participate in the event after responding to an email about the opportunity sent to LOC students from the college’s Center for Active Student Education/Career Services.

Mvula, 21, is majoring in mathematics. Even though he is a math major, he eventually wants to own a business. He also hopes the trip to Morgan Stanley can result in an internship with the company.

He is from Lusaka, the capital of Zambia in Southern Africa.

He is the youngest of eight children and a first-generation collegiate.

Mvula said he learned about LeMoyne-Owen through the New Seasons College Scholars Fund program, which provides academic opportunities for college-bound scholars from Africa and Caribbean.

After applying to other colleges, he chose LOC because the college was the only one that offered him a scholarship to major in math.

Asked why he thought he was chosen for the Morgan Stanley event, he said his involvement in activities at LOC and in the community may have given him an edge.

He has a 3.8 grade-point-average and is LOC's 2017-2018 Mr. Sophomore. His other activities include president of the college's debate society, tutoring students in the college's student retention program and serving as vice president of the LOC Chapter of Net Impact, which "mobilizes new generations to use their skills and careers to drive transformational social and environmental change."

Brooks, 25, graduated from Hamilton High School in South Memphis. She is majoring in education.

She said the trip to New York will be her first time on an airplane and she is a bit nervous about flying.

She thinks the fact that she is an older student and her community service factored in her selection.

She is an honor student, who carries a 3.66 grade-point-average. She said she has volunteered at daycare centers, participated in Day of Service clean-up activities in January and

has worked with public schools to collect food and clothing for students.

Like Mvula, she is the youngest child in her family – she has a brother and sister – and also is a first-generation collegiate.

Although she is an education major, she plans to study business in graduate school. She hopes the Morgan Stanley trip will help her “think outside the box.”

Wanda Blair-Jones, director of LOC’s Center for Active Student Education/Career Services, said the Morgan Stanley trip is a “great opportunity for them (Mvula and Brooks) to get the exposure. It builds confidence. And, hopefully, they will share their experience with other students.”

The center helps students find internships and opportunities that help them build a career. She wishes more students would take advantage of these kinds of opportunities.

Blair-Jones said the students’ Morgan Stanley acceptance reinforces the center’s mission “to help students find value and purpose in their lives.”

And, that is what Mvula and Brooks think the trip to New York City will mean for them.

Jerome Wright

Director of Communications



Joe Mvula



Latosha Brooks