

Understand the Global Landscape: An Interview with Maria Byrd of *Channels Television News*

Michael Walsh, HBCU-ACC Advisor | February 2023



Maria Byrd was a guest speaker to the [HBCU-Africa Correspondents Corps](#). She is the Washington Correspondent of [Channels Television News](#).

What is unique about student newspapers? Why do you think that they matter?

Student newspapers are incubators for developing talent in our industry. These newspapers provide some of the best training opportunities for aspiring journalists. Oftentimes, student newspapers provide the most transparent reporting.

What is unique about HBCU student newspapers? Why do you think that they matter?

HBCU newspapers provide a voice for black issues and concerns, along with reporting on how national and global affairs affect minorities. HBCUs are able to provide a voice for minority college students that otherwise may not exist.

What is the first piece of advice that you would give a HBCU student reporter who aspires to become a foreign correspondent? Why?

The first piece of advice that I would provide an HBCU student reporter that aspires to become a foreign correspondent is to understand the landscape of global affairs. Specifically, understanding the relationships between countries and the political power struggles that exist.

If you were asked to share one story from your time as a foreign correspondent with HBCU student reporters, what would it be? Why?

My most memorable experience as a foreign correspondent was being the first US interview for the Chibok girls that escaped Boko Haram in 2015. I have interviewed many heads of state, ambassadors and spent a lot of time at the White House as part of the white house press pool; but that interview was one that changed my life forever.

Which foreign policy issues do you think most merit the attention of HBCU student reporters? Why?

Ethnocentrism and racial bias are at the root of the conflict across the world and student reporters are in the best position to bring attention and light to these global challenges.