

Form Summary

Name	Janaya Belcher
Email	jbelche3@xula.edu
Phone	703-586-8818
Birth date	03/19/2002
Age	20
Please Check All that Apply:	African American/Black
High School:	Bethel High School
High School Mailing Address:	1067 Big Bethel Rd, Hampton, VA 23666
High School Guidance Counselor:	Brannef Peters
High School Contact Phone #	757-825-4428
GPA:	3.22
Class Rank:	
Graduation Date:	May 2024
College Name:	Xavier University of Louisiana
Intended Major/Field of Study:	Biology Pre-Medicine , Chemistry and Public Health Minors
Church Name/Pastor (if member):	
Community Service and/or Extra Curricular Activities (if any):	SGA Freshman Class Secretary ('20-'21) Peer Dean Association ('21-'22) SGA Sophomore Class Secretary ('21-'22) 230+ Service Hours with Mobilization at Xavier 2.0 (2020-2022) Bumble Honey Campus Outreach Manager (Spring '21) Certified Pharmacy Technician - Pharmacy Technician Certification Board

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Honors and Awards (if any):

Please list below the names and amounts of any grants or scholarships you have been awarded for the coming school year:

Name of Award: Amount: Granted/Pending:

Please share your educational and career goals/aspirations and how you plan to move toward greatness:

“Good, better, best. Never let it rest, until your good is your better and your better is your best.” My late grandmother would drill this saying into the minds of my cousins and myself as children, accompanied by the support, love, and encouragement that only a grandmother could provide. She was the oldest daughter of 11, never graduated from high school, and somehow maneuvered into the spaces that her own mother could’ve never imagined. She owned a home, her children all did well for themselves, and she loved to work in her garden. This all came with work. Lots of it. She valued education and taught us the importance of obtaining your degree, “because it’s something nobody can take away from you.” She taught us not to settle with simply surviving, but to forever reach up and pull down God’s blessings because complacency is not an option. She is the nurturing, generous, and wise woman that I aspire to be. To us, resilience is the essence of our story and the foundation of our success. I believe that my purpose in life is to use my skills, education, and talents to nurture my community, my people, and the generations that follow me.

I currently attend the Xavier University of Louisiana as a Biology Pre-Medicine student with a double minor in chemistry and public health. As a volunteer with Hope for Humanity - MAX 2.0, I worked on restoring gardens that were created to address food insecurity around our campus. I began to understand the significance of public health and how infrastructure directly impacts communities. I came to Xavier specifically interested in practicing medicine, but my passion quickly diverted. I have served as my Student Government Association’s Class of 2024 Secretary for the past two years, which has allowed me to heighten my communication skills and connect with people in untraditional ways. I have always loved media, marketing, and advocacy so I plan on obtaining a Master’s of Public Health with a concentration in Health Communications and work to shrink the gap between underrepresented and marginalized communities and our right to health equity.

The pandemic opened my eyes to the lack of consideration for those who don’t have the means or resources to obtain or understand accurate health information. The lack of trust that many minority communities have in the government and America’s healthcare system puts us at a disadvantage throughout the pandemic and resulted in higher Covid-19 death rates for African-Americans in comparison to our white counterparts. Of course, communication was not the only contributing factor, but it is very important that we at least know what is going on so that we can make educated decisions. In New Orleans, the additional barriers include natural disasters like hurricanes, that displaced thousands just this September in the midst of a Covid-19 surge. People endured severe flooding, lengthy power outages, a delay in trash pickup, as well as food

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and gas scarcity. I began to work with Core Response New Orleans to mitigate the spread, by offering free PCR and rapid tests around the city and educating residents on preventative measures. Luckily, the city recovered fairly quickly and our positive test rates stabilized. This is the type of active intervention that I want to participate in throughout my career.

As I have developed as a student and young professional, my university's mission has been a critical benchmark for my decision-making. As a member of our campus orientation leadership team, the Peer Dean Association, we are always sure to link our motivations back to the purpose of our founder, St. Katherine Drexel. I have become engulfed in service and exercised my leadership capabilities in various ways on campus. I am currently working as a Community Engaged Intern through Virginia Sea Grant at the William and Mary Law School. As a rising junior at my university, I aim to refine my critical thinking and reasoning skills so that in the future I may pour back into my people the way they pour into me.