



Executive Board 2015-2018

May 2017

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Re: CBAA Outstanding Student Leadership Award 2017

It is with extreme pleasure that we award the 2017 Cornell Black Alumni Association Outstanding Student Leadership Award to **Amber Aspinall**. Amber's activism and strong social justice leadership agenda through Black Students United and Wari House as well as her scholarship and mentoring as a student are exemplary.

Her commitment to honoring the legacy of Black peoples while positively improving conditions for students at Cornell brought her to the attention of alumni who have attended Cornell events in the last two years. From her presentations at CBAA's last two general body meetings, to the Africana Commemoration ceremony last September, Cornell Feast of the Sisterhood in December 2016, and her compelling narrative about labels at the Cornell Alumni Leadership Conference (CALC) in February 2017, Amber always shared facts and evidence that called attention to our need to act or learn. Due to actions of Amber and other students at Cornell, the university has:

- recognized the site of the original Africana with a commemorative plaque,
- increased the number of mental health professionals of color at the university health center,
- added new staff positions to support students,
- divested from companies involved in the private prison industry,
- and changed the name of the Cornell Plantations to the Cornell Botanic Gardens.

And so, Amber, we welcome you with open arms to the next part of your journey as an alum. We look forward to you using your newly minted bachelor's degree in ILR, activist spirit, and commitment to community to strengthen the work of CBAA.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Brown-Grant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Brown-Grant '88

Cornell Black Alumni Association President, 2015- 2018