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Second UVI Student Participates in HBCU White House Press Briefing

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Nadege Barber By. UVI

For the second time this semester, a University of the Virgin Islands communications student enjoyed the opportunity of a lifetime — the chance to participate in a White House press briefing, UVI made known via release Tuesday.

Nadege Barber, sophomore, communications minor and president of the student group UVI Association of Black Journalists (UVIABJ), joined 18 student journalists from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in a virtual White House press briefing with Senior Advisor Cedric Richmond on Nov. 18.

Barber was called upon and graciously corrected the mispronunciation of her name. “My name is Nadege. Nadege Barber,” she clearly and carefully informed the host. She then acknowledged the coordinator of the WH HBCU program, Erica Loewe, White House Director, African American Media. She thanked Loewe for her support and participation as a guest panelist at the first UVIABJ Summit which was held Nov 12-13.

She then thanked Richmond “for the opportunity to represent UVI,” and proceeded with a question about the remarks he recently made on the live stream broadcast, “Let it be Known,” hosted by the National Association of Publishers, which represents 230 Black-owned newspapers and media companies. “You expressed that misinformation is deliberately being spread about Bidens’ efforts to help HBCUs,” Barber began. She then posed the question, “How can young Black journalists and publishers help combat the spread of myths and disinformation targeted toward underrepresented populations and Black voters?”

Richmond acknowledged his concern with the serious problem of misinformation and advised, “You all have to call it out, you all have more credibility in this space. As young journalists, publishers, people listen to you. It’s going to be an all-hands-on deck full-time job to fight people who mean no good.”

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