

Local Professionals find NtentialSM along Successful Career Pathway

Three Howard University Business School graduates enhance their MBAs with online career development program created by the National Black MBA Association

Washington, D.C. (May 9, 2006) – Three recent graduates of the Howard University Business School are embarking on the next phases of their careers armed with their newly-earned MBAs and the added confidence gained from participating in a comprehensive executive coaching program created by the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA). Amaya Lambert, Nyema Pinkney and Colin C. Thompson were selected as Candidates for Success for the association's NtentialSM program, an on-line career service that combines state-of-the-art technology with executive coaching.

“Although I had always considered myself extremely self-motivated and successful, I didn't feel like I was ready for executive coaching because I wasn't an executive,” said Thompson, who worked full time as the IT project manager at Howard University while also becoming the first-ever candidate to seek a double concentration MBA in information systems and analysis and supply chain management from the university. “Ntential forced me to look at myself and really hammer out my priorities for the next 3-5 years.”

Ntential is designed to assist members of the workforce from entry-level through retirement. It combines skill assessments to help professionals chart the career path that best fits their set of skills, resources to lead them through their career progression and personalized coaching to reinforce the direction each individual takes.

“I had always envisioned having a long career,” said Lambert, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Business from Tulane University in 2000 and an MBA from the Howard University Business School in May 2006. “But after graduating from Tulane, I had two short stints at companies and started questioning my career. Working with the Ntential coaches and fellow Candidates for Success gave me clarity about my professional goals and how to obtain them.”

The NBMBA emphasizes coaching as a vital element of Ntential, offering a third-party perspective that outlines courses of action, offers critical analysis and keeps Ntential participants accountable for their results. The coach provides feedback, direction, motivation and inspiration.

“There are a lot of books you can read, but the true benefit of Ntential is having accountability partners. You want to follow through with your goals because someone is going to ask you about them and your progress,” Thompson said.

Both Lambert and Thompson were inspired to participate in Ntential based on the experience of Nyema Pinkney who was selected as “Student of the Year” by her Howard University Business School classmates. In the fall of 2004, Pinkney became one of the NBMBA's original Candidates for Success.

“Like most people, I entered business school believing that my education would be my key to a higher salary,” Pinkney said. “Ntential opened my eyes to see that providing middle school students with creative and sound financial management education will bring me more personal satisfaction than a large sum of money. My success is based on my own personal value system.”

“Nyema’s experience was powerful,” said Lambert. “She told us that although it was hard work, it was good work that enabled her to learn not only about her career goals, but a lot about herself and her passions.”

“So often, young professionals begin a career accomplishing many of their core professional and personal goals,” said Barbara Thomas, president and CEO of NBMBA. “Sometimes the challenge becomes, ‘what’s next?’ Ntential’s personalized online resource center was designed to reignite, re-enforce and enhance a person’s accomplishments in addition to achieving his or her end goals. We do this by adding intensive human interaction with the best career coaches available to Ntential’s highly sophisticated online resources. We like to call this a hi-tech product with hi-touch service.”

The Howard University Business School was one of the original supporters of Ntential, expanding on its long-term partnership with the National Black MBA Association. Lambert, Pinkney and Thompson are also members of the association’s Washington, D.C. chapter. All three graduates credit Ntential with providing them with the tools and support to land their dream jobs.

Next month, Thompson will join the leadership program in IBM’s Integrated Supply Chain Division. Pinkney will be entering the Operations Transformational Leadership Program at United Technologies Corporation in July. In September, Lambert will be joining Deloitte as a Senior Consultant in Strategy and Operations.

“Ntential gave me the confidence and ability to successfully make it through IBM’s competitive recruitment process – which prior, may have proved to be difficult,” Thompson said.

The NBMBA is the nation’s largest association for minority professionals. Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in increased intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment and entrepreneurship. With more than 6,000 members representing 100,000 MBA graduates in 39 chapters around the country, the NBMBA has strategic partnerships with more than 400 of the country’s top business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges. The group’s 2006 annual conference and career fair, the nation’s largest employment and networking event, will be held in Atlanta, Sept. 26 – Oct. 1.

For more information about NtentialSM, please visit www.nbmbaa.org.

To speak with Amaya Lambert, Nyema Pinkney, Barbara Thomas or Colin C. Thompson about NtentialSM, please contact Kathy King at 202.466.1396 or Kathy@westinrinehart.com.