



CHAngemakers

Kierra Russell spent eight months looking for a job after graduating with a business administration degree from Monmouth College in 2017. The search reached a low point.

But then her mother insisted she attend CHA's "Take Flight: Staying the Course" college retention event. A week later, she started a job at BMO Harris.

"I had no idea this was going to happen," she said.

Russell spoke with students at the 2019 Take Flight event about taking advantage of resources that CHA and others have to offer.

"I wasn't going to go; my mom made me go," she said of last year's Take Flight: Staying the Course event. "And then at the end of the program, I was walking around, talking to different people and I went up to the BMO Harris table. They asked whether I could email them my resume, and I said I could do you one better: I have one right here."

The next day, she got a call to interview.

"And the next week, I had a job," she said.

Russell started her job as a Retail Relationship Banker on Feb. 16, 2018. She's a teller and a banker. She is happy and excited about her next move within the company.

If she were to give any advice to public housing residents looking for jobs, she said simply take advantage of the opportunities CHA provides.

Because, you just never know.



Kierra Russell attended last year's "Take Flight: College Send-Off" after some nudging from her mother and landed a job as a Retail Relationship Banker at BMO Harris a week later. She returned this year and encourages other college students from CHA to take advantage of resources and opportunities.