

Kai Jones

Reflecting on my past three years here at Auburn, it has been bittersweet for me. I have seen myself grow as an Auburn woman and the people in my life who have helped me along the way embody the ideals too. Celesta Henry, Joshua Huggins, Konnie Pace, Taylor Mitchell and Mya Strickland all have been my mentors here at Auburn and I know my college experience wouldn't have been the same without them. Leaving an impact through other people, mentoring, and being able to be involved at such a high capacity on this campus has genuinely made my college years. Being a part of the Auburn Family means being a part of something bigger than yourself. It means being able to support one another and to stand on the foundations we have built throughout the years, and for those who come after us. The line of the creed that I believe most aligns with this belief is, "I believe in the human touch, which cultivated sympathy with my fellow men and mutual helpfulness and brings happiness for all." Mutual helpfulness is crucial for marginalized students, and especially here at Auburn as a Predominantly White Institution (PWI). Being able to help someone guide you through college spaces where you may not be represented or feel lost is something I am beyond grateful that I had. That is why my goal as Miss Homecoming would be to help carry on mentorship for students once they get on campus. Programs like Tiger Connect, Tiger Takeoff and Tiger Retreat through our office of inclusion and diversity have helped shape these experiences for prospective students as well freshman on this campus and retention rates for minorities on campus and I want to highlight that. Soar High with Kai is a platform dedicated to the role models, mentors, and those involved in the college experience for our underclass men. Leaving a legacy at Auburn is something we think about as upperclassmen and what better way to do that than through taking someone under your wing and mentoring students who may not have that in their lives. My life quote that was shared with me by one of my mentors Taylor Mitchell at the Leadership Institute this last spring is something I want to live out my senior year at Auburn; "Let your intentions be helpful, and your impact be great".