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Leona A. Harris* (leona.harris@udc.edu). *My Choice to Change the World: An Exploration of My Journey from the Spelman College Mathematics Department to an Urban Public HBCU in the Nation's Capital.*

As a student in the Spelman College Mathematics Department, I learned about the power of mathematics and the endless possibilities a degree in mathematics would afford me. I also learned about the vast underrepresentation of minorities and women in the mathematical sciences, and of my two-fold responsibility to help diversify the field, by becoming a mathematician and helping other minorities and women achieve the same goal. This presentation explores my HBCU journey from Spelman College to the University of the District of Columbia, and the various experiences that have shaped my path from student to administrator. In addition to the impact that Spelman College's Mathematics Department has had on my professional trajectory, we explore Spelman's impact on the mathematics community through its programs and graduates, and a myriad of attempts by its graduates to live by the College's motto to make "A Choice to Change the World." (Received September 23, 2018)