

► **G.I. JOBS SPOKE WITH DERRICK WOOD TO DISCUSS HIS EXPERIENCE AT STRATFORD UNIVERSITY AND HIS FUTURE GOALS.**

GIJ: Why did you decide to go back to school?

Wood: Because I wanted to complete my goal of being a college graduate and learning how to effectively start a business.

GIJ: Why did you choose this school?

Wood: Stratford took the time to explain how to tap into my military benefits and maximize my learning potential.

GIJ: What degree are you earning?

Wood: I'll complete my MBA in July 2012. I completed my bachelor's in hospitality management in June 2011. I'm a student at the Woodbridge, Va., campus.

GIJ: What are your goals once you're armed with this new degree?

Wood: Expand my barbecue catering business (<http://dbbqim.com/index.php>) into different markets and build a brand. I plan to have an actual restaurant one day. I also want to become an advocate for veterans to encourage them to take advantage of their education benefits.

GIJ: Are you using the GI Bill? If so, which one?

Wood: Post-9/11 GI Bill

GIJ: Does the GI Bill cover all of your expenses?

Wood: Yes, because Stratford University participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

GIJ: Do you feel that your military experience has made you a better student? How?

Wood: Yes, because of the life experiences and different cul-

STRATFORD UNIVERSITY
www.militaryfriendlyschoos.com/stratford

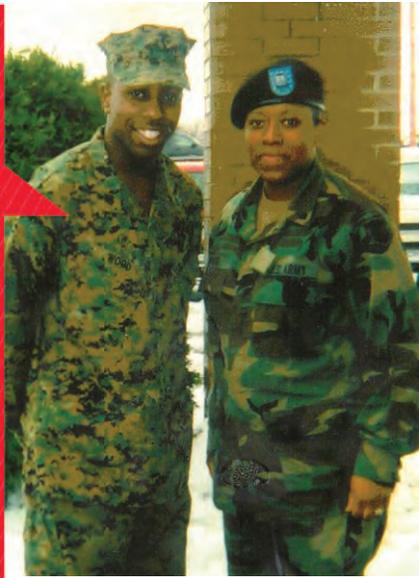
Location(s): Stratford has campuses in Virginia (Falls Church, Woodbridge, Richmond and Newport News); Maryland (Baltimore); and India (New Delhi and Gurgaon).

Military Tuition (if different): Stratford offers a reduced flat-rate tuition of \$840 per class if a student qualifies for tuition assistance through their current command. Tuition includes cost of all textbooks.

Registration Fee: \$50

Tuition:

- Full-time undergraduate student: \$4,995 per quarter, plus fees.
- Full-time graduate student: \$3,690 per quarter, plus fees.
- An academic year is three quarters. Tuition includes cost of all textbooks.



tures I was exposed to, as well as the discipline and leadership skills I acquired.

GIJ: What advice would you give to other students to help them adjust to campus culture?

Wood: Fully immerse yourself into the culture and embrace it; it makes your learning experience even greater.

GIJ: Would you recommend your school to other military and veteran students? Why?

Wood: Yes, because Stratford was founded by a veteran. The faculty and staff understand who we are and are very sensitive to our needs and wants.

GIJ: What was your job in the military?

Wood: Fiscal Budget Technician (3451)

GIJ: Where were you stationed during your military career?

Wood: Parris Island, S.C., Camp Lejeune, N.C., Camp Pendleton, Calif., Quantico, Va., and Indian Head, Md.

GIJ: Which military achievement are you most proud of?

Wood: Graduation from the Staff Academy while my wife was over in Iraq. I was caring for our 1-year old and 2-year old children. The experience stretched me to a new level of growth and gave me a new appreciation for single parents. ☐