

# LU hosts first virtual pageant



Photo from LU SGA Instagram

Two new freshmen win the titles of Mr. & Miss Orange & Blue during Langston's first virtual pageant. Imani Spearman (left), freshman animal science major, and Demarion Hayes (right), freshman busi-

ness management major, earned their crowns Oct. 8. To see the virtual recording, scan the QR code at the end of the story with your cellphone camera.

**By Lea Houston**  
*Gazette Reporter*

Langston University hosted a virtual pageant for the first time to crown the new Mr. and Miss Orange and Blue.

On Oct. 8, freshman business management major Demarion Hayes and freshman animal science major Imani Spearman earned the 2020-2021 Mr. and Miss Orange and Blue titles.

Though COVID-19 still stands, nothing was going to stop these two contestants from competing with six other freshmen for the same title.

While competing virtually, they said, it was actually much more comfortable than having to perform in front of a crowd

because they only had to pull out their inner selves in front of a panel of judges.

"Anyone who knows me knows that I have horrible stage fright," Spearman said. "But because we were only performing with a panel of judges, it wasn't bad at all."

This was Spearman's first pageant, so it allowed her to step out of her comfort zone, as well as teach others to do the same.

Hayes, who also competed in his first pageant through this experience, agrees with Spearman. He also thinks having the pageant virtually brought a better personal connection with the judges as well as his pageant sisters and brothers.

The pageant was pre-recorded, so it allowed the contestants to slow down and compete at their own pace, which means they were able to take their time during segments instead of being rushed.

"The pageant being virtual allowed me to take time to interact with people on a personal level," Hayes said. "With the pageant being pre-recorded, it allowed us to take our time with everything as far as practicing, connecting with the judges, and bonding with the other contestants."

Coming in as freshmen, while also in the midst of a pandemic, it is challenging for both Hayes and Spearman to thoroughly implement their

platforms. This is particularly because most events must to be virtual and abide by the CDC social distancing guidelines.

Working against body dysmorphic disorder, while working towards body positivity, Spearman plans on representing her platform "Positive Perceptions" through online events as well as through a panel discussing how to work toward body positivity from body dysmorphia. She hopes her platform will encourage women to feel more comfortable about themselves and their bodies.

As for Hayes, he plans to have open discussions with the student body to help im-

plement his platform "Unity within the Community," which focuses on adversities and critical issues such as the pandemic.

For footage of the 2020-2021 Mr. and Miss. Orange and Blue Pageant, scan the QR code below with your cellphone camera.

