

Community College and How It Is Changing My Life

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My first five years of my life were like that of a fairytale. There was nothing out of the ordinary. My dad did not finish high school, but he worked offshore. My mom graduated high school, but she never got to become the teacher she wanted to be because she had me. We lived in Shelby County in a pretty house, and we pretty much had it all together. Then, I had found out I had a sister coming along. I also found out my dad started doing drugs. Our perfect life was starting to come to an end. My mom stayed with my dad to give him a chance of recovery. My two brothers came along, and my dad never recovered. My mom finally left my dad but now she had four kids to take care of. We lived life hard and eventually Children Protective Services got involved. All throughout our foster care journey, I paid close attention to my siblings. I was determined that we were going to stay together. Our education was not a priority at the time, but I made sure to make good grades: I wanted a way out! We eventually all did get adopted together by my great aunt back in Shelby County. I was finally in a place where I could focus on my studies without being so worried about my siblings. I wanted to start dual credit classes as soon as I got into high school, but I was anxious that I couldn't do it. I mustered up the courage to start my junior year and my life has been changed ever since. I have earned 28 college credits not including this spring semester and I'm not stopping! Community college has encouraged me to reach for the stars. There are three major reasons community college is preparing me for my career: learning about connections, learning about discipline, and learning about self-worth.

The connections that you make attending a community college differ from anywhere else. The connections are closer and more attentive. This is exactly why I have stayed along for the ride. The relationships you can build with your professors are encouraging and it helps you to have the drive to finish a class. Professors at my community college are accommodating but also

challenge me to do my best. Learning how to make these connections are beneficial to my success in my career.

My community college journey has also taught me discipline. Being in a single parent home is not easy, I must pour into my family more ways than one. Being at my community college has helped me balance my life at home with the future I have to reach for. The discipline it takes to balance those is preparing me to be successful. The hours that I put into my work result in the grades I get back.

One of the most important things from community college that is preparing me for a career is the new view I have of myself. I used to believe that I couldn't do anything because my parents didn't do anything. I used to believe a career was financially and mentally impossible for me. I thought I wasn't smart enough, pretty enough, or strong enough to go to college. I was completely wrong. Community college was affordable for my family and had the support system I needed! The way I see myself in the mirror has changed from not enough to enough since I started community college. I have no doubts about me reaching my career goals.

Community college had helped me to know I can reach my biggest dream, a career. The drastic changes of my mindset should encourage anyone to choose a community college. I encourage young people around me all the time not to hesitate just because it's a "community" college. If I can reach my dream, so can they. Community college has done it for me, and it can do it for them. Community college has taught me what I need for a successful career: the importance of connections, discipline, and self-worth.