

President's Circle Award

Belief in Success

By Shameka Cullins



I was raised by my mother and father, who were unable to go to college because they had no money; from the stories I was told when I was a child, their parents were in the same situation. I remember times being so hard back then my mother would have to feed me and my sisters beans and bread for dinner because that was all she had, and several times when I was in elementary school, I would be sitting outside of the school alone after school had let out. I was only six years old the first time this happened; I was waiting in the rain, in fear, stomach in knots from feeling unsafe, hoping my mother would find a ride from work to pick me up. Finally, hours later she would arrive. What a relief that was. I have endless stories I could share, but basically the woman I have become wants more than that for my family, and this is why I chose to attend a community college. The smaller classes and teacher who have time and are willing to help me are things I do not believe I could get at a university.

I believe my past is what has established my belief in education and applying one's self to do better. I thank God for this opportunity to attend college, considering my parents never had the willpower to go to college nor the opportunity to apply for scholarships. I will do everything in my power to stop this generational cycle in my family. I am determined to not allow my childhood be my demise. Developmental classes have given me the skills I must have to end this cycle.

Developmental English and reading have readied me to complete my prerequisites and co-requisites with a final grade point average of a 4.0 in order to get accepted into the Registered Nursing Program at FGC. Meanwhile, I continue to read as many books as possible while completing my nursing degree so that I can be as educated as possible. My developmental reading class instilled in me a love of reading and the ability to clearly understand and absorb the material.

Even more than the skills I gained from my developmental classes, my teachers instilled in me the belief that I can succeed. The only thing slowing me down is funding. This scholarship will help to provide me with books, gas, college equipment, and all the essentials to help me stay focused while in school.