

Naa Dromo Korley



Centennial High School

To attend The Ohio State University or the University of Cincinnati for studies in Medical Anthropology or Medical Science

to eat my rice and beans. If my mom lunch, I would eat my lunch in the “what’s that smell? Or “why does it up such a beautiful culture just to be told my mom that I changed my name in the library eating my lunch alone; told me the meaning and power behind my name and told me the importance of being proud of who I am because of my heritage. It took time for me to be more accepting of my culture, however, by sharing my culture with my friends. I overcame this fear of embarrassment. I now serve as the leader of the Dancing Stars. [We perform] across the USA in my church denomination. I attend youth leadership development camps that bring together first and second generations of immigrants to celebrate our heritage. I’m also in charge of the Columbus City Schools’ Multicultural Festival...[which has] allowed me to advocate for the celebration and recognition of diversity. .

Naa’s Story

My name is Naa Dromo Korley, a mouthful, however, my name has a powerful meaning to it. [There was] a specific time in my life where I had to overcome an obstacle [of being] ashamed of the culture that came with being a Ghanaian-American. Naa in Ghanaian means Queen and Cromo means Grace. I hated being Ghanaian and hated my traditional Ghanaian name so much that throughout elementary school

I told my friends to call me Grace and [I] abandoned my cultural name. I felt that ...Grace was more of an American” name. This embarrassment for my culture affected my school lunch as well. I would cry and tell my mom to pack me the “regular” lunch (hotdogs, hamburgers, a PB&J sandwich etc.) I was too embarrassed didn’t pack me my “Americanized” library to avoid everyone asking me look like that?” I was willing to give recognized as American. My teacher to Grace and that she would find me my mom was heartbroken. My mom

“I would eat my lunch in the library to avoid everyone asking me “what’s that smell? Or “why does it look like that?”

I was willing to give up such a beautiful culture just to be recognized as American.”

Maurice Lemons



Centennial High School Columbus Downtown High School

To attend the University of Dayton for studies in Engineering Cincinnati for studies in Medical Anthropology or Medical Science

Maurice’s Story

One obstacle I have overcome is choosing not to belong. I’ve always had the choice of either being the odd one out, or to go to where I was supposed to be. The oddball path had potential to yield to success, and the other path was normal. I chose to be the odd one because I knew that later in life it. would pay off, and dealing with my choice may have made me a little crazy, but that runs in the family.!

“One obstacle I have overcome is choosing not to belong... The oddball path had potential to yield to success...”

Ravionna's Story

Ravionna Johnson



East High School

To attend Denison University for studies in Psychology and Education

I grew up with a single mother. She worked many jobs to make ends meet. I never up close to graduated thought that where I am my mother bone and exhaustion, pain. I was

"...one day I'll be so successful I'll take care of my mom and she'll never have to work again!"

myself. But, my mom always told me that God had bigger plans than the situation I was in for me. She told me God gave her the privilege of raising a genius. So, that's been my motivation to reach for the stars and be successful. And one day I'll be so successful I'll take care of my mom and she'll never have to work again!

scared to take a risk on see someone that from college. At times I I'd always be stuck now, living in poverty, working herself to the working through health problems, and

Joy's Story

Joy Jesujaare Ayinde



Centennial High School

To attend The Ohio State University for studies in Pre-Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

"I have thought about how different my life would have been if I had given up when I wanted to. My story would have been something like this: "I used to think I was supposed to be a high school graduate and pursue my college education without loans, but I gave it a shot and things didn't work out". I have had to wrestle with different challenges in my life especially when most of my scholarship

"Often times, the best and most rewarding decision you can make is to stay even when it would be simpler to turn and walk away."

applications failed my expectations, and I felt like there was no way to go to college debt-free. However, one major thing I learned during my time of difficulties is that giving up should not be an option. When you face difficulties, it is natural to reconsider your life and think of altering decisions. You are at a crucial time, and it's time to decide: should I stay or should I walk away? Am I choosing to give up because it's the right thing or because walking away from it would be easier? Often times, the best and most rewarding decision you can make is to stay even when it would be simpler to turn and walk away. Now, I just look back and thank God that I decided to stay when it would have been easier to walk away. It is important to remember that God made you in His image and that He is the author and finisher of your story. You are not a quitter. You are a finisher. I will forever be grateful to Helen Jenkins Davis's opportunities mostly because it reminded me of desire, diligence, and determination as keys to unlock a great future."

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Lashawn David Samuel



West High School

To attend The Ohio State University or Capital University for studies in Accounting

Lashawn's Story

Scholarship recipient Lashawn Samuel's story received

“Keep true to yourself, have faith and persevere so that you can overcome it [your obstacle], then you will!”

WCMH NBC 4i news coverage which profiled the obstacles he overcame. The news feature highlighted how for five years Lashawn walked three miles round

trip from his home to the Franklinton Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library to get help with his homework. Lashawn achieved his goals despite many challenges to his health, his personal safety and his financial security. “I never would have achieved it without God, my family, my friends and this environment I have around me,” he said. “There’s always going to be a challenge or an obstacle that you’re going to have to overcome or grow out of, but as long as you keep true to yourself and have faith and persevere so that you can overcome it, then you will”. Samuel says his story is a testament of what can happen when you work hard and persevere and lean on your community to get help when you need it. Samuels says he has always been inspired by the words of late tennis champion Arthur Ashe... “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”