Up for the Challenge: Student Stories of Success

Ivory Douglas

1. Describe yourself during your first semester at Texas State.
   a. My first semester at Texas State was a challenge but very rewarding. As a first generation college student I was really nervous about the college experience, but luckily I was able to get connected early on. I got involved with Student Support Services and my Success Coach gave me that extra push I needed to stay focused and get involved with student organizations. Thanks to that initial connection so early on, I felt very welcome at Texas State and became a student leader.

2. How have you grown or changed since your first semester?
   a. As a freshman I was very nervous about asking questions and utilizing resources. I had always been the type of person to be able to figure out things on my own, but that was not the case in this situation. Since my freshman year, I have learned the value of asking important questions and truly realized the importance of utilizing all of the available resources necessary that Texas State has to offer.

3. What is something you wish you knew before you started college?
   a. I wish I had known how to better balance my time as far as academics, social life, and “me time”. I was so excited about getting involved on campus that I quickly overloaded myself with different organizations leaving very little time for me to focus on my studies and for me to have to relax and reflect.

4. Share obstacles and/or challenges you’ve faced as a college student.
   a. One of my greatest obstacles was learning how to say no in order to not overwork myself. Once again, I spent so much time being a student leader that I began to have a decrease in my GPA. Learning how to prioritize and limit myself has been one of greatest challenges to overcome.

5. What is your definition of success?
   a. My definition of success is all about putting forth that extra effort. Many people believe that you have to be a genius to be successful in
college but I believe it is all about finding your passion and working hard to achieve that.

6. What does it take to be a successful college student?
   a. It takes a lot of time, energy, and prioritizing. You have to be willing to sacrifice some “fun” events for late night studying at times. There will always be another chance to have fun, but there may not always be another chance to enhance your GPA to your desire.

7. What keeps you motivated?
   a. My support system and spirituality. Not only do I have a strong support system back in my hometown, but I have also gained my own family here at Texas State University. Having the encouragement from my family along with my faith to keep me stable keeps me motivated to keep going.

8. Name someone who has supported or helped you to succeed in college.
   a. Mrs. April Barnes and Ms. Jonnie Wilson have been two of my strongest supporters as far as faculty here at Texas State. They genuinely care about my success and have went out of their way numerous times to empower me to my greatest potential.

9. What campus resources would you recommend to others?
   a. All of them! It definitely depends on what you need most. Personally, I have had great experience with Texas State Career Services. I have received extensive help preparing for graduate school with resume, personal goal statement critique as well as mock interviews. Because of this office, I was well prepared and excited for interviews.

10. What piece of advice would you give to an incoming student?
    a. Get involved, Get connected, Maintain balance and Have Fun!