



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VISIONS OF SUCCESS -AMBER MCEACHERN

Amber McEachern is a junior, Kinesiology major who has been active in SSS since her freshman year. After graduation, Amber plans to attend graduate school for Sports Management. She also works as a Federal Work Study Lab Monitor in the SSS lab.



At the Student Support Services, 44th Annual Awards Event, held on April 22, 2014, Amber shared her Success Story with fellow SSS students, SSS Staff, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Chancellor Linda Brady.

Her Success Story reads: “What is success? This is a question that we have all asked ourselves, or have been asked, at least once in our lives. Webster defines success as: “the act of getting of achieving wealth, respect, or fame.” However, I have learned that success is a term that we all define differently based on our belief systems and the goals that we set. Over the years, I have defined success as many different things. As a child I defined success as being able to stay out of trouble for a long enough period of time to receive some type of reward. As a teen I defined success as being able to go out without having my mother tag along. And now as a college student I define success as being able to accomplish things that some people said I wouldn’t. My question to you is: how do you define success?”

When I first came to college, I struggled with transitioning from a high school mentality to a college or young adult mentality. The first couple of months of being a college freshman, I was mostly excited about being miles away from home, the freedom to make my own decisions and be my own

person, and being in a new environment with new people. Many of my family members and friends were able to depict how they saw me as a “successful” college student, sharing all of their thoughts on what they believed I should do, and how I should do it. It wasn’t until the second semester of my freshman year when I realized that I could not be what others thought I should be but I must define who I am to be, on my own. It was this “a-ha” moment that would get me steps closer to reaching my dreams of becoming a successful person.

Student Support Services (SSS) was a big part of my “a-ha”. I have been a part of the SSS program since my freshman year and I must say this program has helped me tremendously with my maturity and growth as a student. Through this program, I have learned and witness that success comes in many shapes and forms. SSS makes it possible for all individuals to achieve despite their situations. SSS has for me, made what seemed impossible, obtainable. The support and assistance from the SSS staff and my peers has been invaluable. As a lab monitor over the past two years, I have had the opportunity to meet a lot of my fellow SSS peers, and as result of their success stories, I attained a lot of motivation to keep going when I have wanted to give up. This program has given me a wealth of resources that I may not have discovered on my own and has allowed for growth and maturity to develop within me, and I am better college student as a result. I attribute my successes here at UNCG to the SSS program.

A successful person is one who is able to achieve the things that many suggested he/she could not. This year alone I believe I have exceeded my vision of being successful, and I plan to continue this journey as I embark on the rest of my college career.

I want you all to think about how you would answer the first question I asked: how do you define success? The answer to this question will be your seed. Plant that seed into the ground which will be your goals for success. Take the necessary steps to help your seed grow, one being, becoming an active member of SSS. Water it by believing each and every day that you can reach it despite the daily challenges that the world throws at you. And lastly, once you have done all that you can do to achieve that goal, watch your seed blossom into something beautiful: A successful you.”

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