



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VISIONS OF SUCCESS –AMANDA PHILLIPS

Amanda Philips is a graduate of UNCG and participated in SSS all 4 years of her undergraduate education. She earned a Bachelor's of Science in Education and a Bachelor's of Arts in Religious Studies, graduating with honors in 2012. Amanda currently works as the ACE coordinator at UNCG and has been accepted into graduate school in fall 2014.



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

Her Success Story reads: “Six years ago, I was in the same place many of you are in today. I was a first-generation student, I was a low-income student, and in university terms, I was at-risk. I was at-risk of taking more than 4 years to earn my degree; I was at-risk of failing, dropping out, or stopping out; I was at-risk of leaving for financial burden; I was at-risk of switching schools and majors so many times I’d never finish. What couldn’t be measured in me, and what I believe isn’t measured in many first-generation and/or low-income students was my determination. I was determined to prove that I was better than the statistics and the situations that put me at risk.

I joined SSS before my first day of classes. I had received a scholarship for low-income students that held a dinner on our move-in date. John Foreman, the Director of Student Support Services (SSS), was there speaking about SSS and I knew that I wanted that support. I took full advantage of tutoring, skills work, workshops, and of course the free printing! When, not if, I needed help, many of the SSS staff was there. I was taught how to read textbooks, manage my time, my money, my responsibilities, and my fun. I was taught how to study effectively and how to deal with pre-test stress. My first couple of semesters, like any first-generation low-income students, were grueling. I struggled, I stressed, I tried, and I was supported by SSS. I graduated 4 years later with honors. I beat the odds of an at-risk student and I knew that I owed part of that to the support and guidance of Student Support Services.

I am 2 years out from graduation and ecstatic about working at UNCG. I’ve continued to be successful: buying a car, a house, and a dog. The lessons that SSS taught me - time management, money management, stress management, how to read (not textbooks anymore but official documents) - those things still help me to be successful today.

I was in your place 6 years ago. And 6 years from now, if you take the same advantage of the terrific support that’s being offered to you, then you can be standing here - defying the odds, succeeding at your life goals, and never forgetting that reaching out and taking support can change your life. I am proud of you all for taking that first step towards your lifetime success, and I am honored to enjoy this night with individuals who, like me, are at-risk of nothing more than being extraordinary.”

2013-14 Student Support Services funding from the U.S. Dept. of Education= \$285,619

2012-13 SSS funding from UNCG= \$116,369

The contents of this publication were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.