



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA  
**GREENSBORO**

**TRiO**  
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

## VISIONS OF SUCCESS CHARLES L. CHAVIS, JR.

*Charles Chavis is a senior, African American Studies major at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, graduating in May with honors. Charles received the Brandon Scholarship from Vanderbilt University, where he will pursue his Master's in Theological Studies.*



*At the Student Support Services, 42nd Annual Awards Event, held on April 18, 2012, Charles shared his Success Story with fellow SSS students, SSS Staff, the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, and Chancellor Linda Brady.*

His Success Story reads: "I have always been a dreamer! I am always dreaming. Since grade school, I have known that I wanted to be an African American Studies professor. As I matriculated throughout my life, I learned that dreams cannot be realized by just believing in them. They require work. One of my favorite scriptures talks of this: "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead" (James 2:20).

The SSS program at UNCG has helped me in many ways to work toward my goal. Leaving high school, I was a B student with okay SAT scores, but I was determined to make A's once I got to UNCG. Like most freshmen, I was full of zeal and energy. Right away, I learned that hard work alone was not enough, but that I needed to tap in to the proper resources to help me be effective. I remember reading my European History textbook and highlighting everything, because it all seemed important. SSS taught me how to read closely and how to recognize the important information in a textbook. Building other academic skills like this have helped me work more effectively. Another major aspect of my success has been the tutoring available for my general education courses. Sometimes there is a stigma to seeking tutoring help, but I knew if I was going to reach my goal of A's, I needed to do whatever it took and I got the help I needed. The counseling aspect of SSS was also very helpful in giving me a place to talk through issues and to work through Financial Aid questions and concerns.

Over the past few months, I have been accepted into graduate programs at Duke University, Syracuse University, and Vanderbilt University. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 I received a letter from Vanderbilt University letting me know that I am a Brandon Scholar and that I have been awarded a \$55,000 scholarship to help pay for my graduate program. I would not have been able to accomplish my dreams without believing and through working with the resources of the SSS program.

Thank you and God bless."