



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VISIONS OF SUCCESS - LONNIE LEWIS

Lonnie Lewis is a senior at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro studying nutrition and dietetics.



At the Student Support Services, 45th Annual Awards Event, held on February 25, 2015, Lonnie shared his Success Story with fellow SSS students, staff, and special guests from the university and community. His speech follows:

“When you get to be my age do not waste your time on things you don’t love to do. That’s why being a dietetics student is a perfect fit for me, because I stay hungry all the time.

Returning back to school after 31 years in the workforce was an extremely hard transition. I still had hopes and desires to pursue a dream that could be more beneficial for others than for myself, no matter how white my hair turned, or how little of it was left.

As a student, I visualize the direction of my day in advance to plan accordingly and to reduce some of the stress that comes along with procrastinating. We’ve all seen that sign on TV “experiencing technical difficulties,” that was me before my enrollment into the Special Support Services program. My own difficulties to properly navigate the new technology on campus forced me to become a better student.

Spending many hours studying pointed me in the right direction of becoming a good student, but it was not until I

received an email before classes started from the Special Support Services program advertising educational support for students at UNCG that I realized I could use some support. Needless to say I joined the Special Support Services program and their host of services taught me to become a successful student. The knowledge of my tutors and the academic skills coaches provided an open ear in supporting me through some tough times. They have been a tremendous help during my years of study.

My long curiosity with the healing nature of food nutrients lead me to the School of Nutrition at UNCG. Knowing I’ll be making a positive difference in someone’s life in sports nutrition or geriatrics when I graduate from UNCG is a blessing to look forward to. After all the years of dreaming it will come true. I would like to conclude with an example of being motivated. If we were given the choice to wear a smile or a frown on our face, I feel 100% of us would choose a smile. So I ask you: can we put that smile inside ours hearts and find a good reason to be thankful? I know I have by being here with all of you tonight. Thank you.”

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