



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

VISIONS OF SUCCESS

SARDAVIA WILLIAMS

Sardavia Williams is a senior, Business major at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, graduating this May with honors. She has been accepted into the Teach for America program, where she will teach middle-school math in eastern NC.



“The support I have received from SSS has been tremendous. For me, SSS is home: a place where I can come to anyone for help. It has been my one-stop shop while at UNCG, from supplies, to jobs, to advice, and so much more. My growth as a person has been a long, four year journey.

The most important thing I believe I learned was work-life balance. Freshman and sophomore years, I had a hard time saying “no” to people; I was trying to be involved in organizations, getting internships, and working, but it was hard to manage. I quickly learned I had to set priorities. Once I did this, I realized that quality was better than quantity. I didn’t need to overwhelm myself with a lot of things to do; instead, I could be great in a few things. One semester I had six classes, two internships, a work-study job and I was tutoring for SSS. I decided to focus on one organization, Delta Sigma Pi, where I was able to take on major leadership roles, perform well, and use my experiences in interviews.

I have been able to achieve good grades because of a system I put in place to be used every semester for every class. On the first day, I make sure I am organized by printing my syllabi and placing all due

dates in my weekly and monthly calendars. For very important assignments, I may even write “assignment due in 3 days” to make sure I stay ahead. I create a list of weekly and monthly goals and check them off as I complete them. Setting goals are important for the big picture, helping to give me direction and purpose. Last but not least, I take all assignments seriously. If an assignment is only worth five points, it doesn’t mean I can slack off! I have to work as hard as if it was worth more. Every point matters! Those five points could take me from a B+ to an A-. SSS taught me time management skills and the Master Schedule has helped me put my time into perspective.

When I consider how much I’ve grown over the past four years, I realize that there are 5 main qualities that have made me successful as a student. 1) Perseverance. Being able to pull through heavy workloads and being involved a lot took sheer willpower. It has not been an easy road, but overcoming obstacles is nothing new for me. 2) Desire & Motivation. It takes a lot of both to wake up and go to class, to listen when you get there, to fully participate, and to learn. 3) Dealing with personal issues. Sometimes I didn’t have the family support I wanted and needed, but I found different ways to deal with those issues and to continue doing well. 4) Evaluation. I wanted to grow personally and professionally to reach my full potential, therefore I continually evaluated myself and the things I was doing to become better, using feedback and constructive criticism. 5) No EXCUSES. I knew what I had to do and I took responsibility.

Thanks for your time!”