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Masters of Public Administration, Criminal Justice Track 2013

Masters of Science, Clinical Mental Health Counseling 2016

"I once heard someone say, "The Creator didn't give you another day in your life because you need it; he gave it because someone else out there needs you." Well, I certainly do credit my not-so-enviable upbringing and experiences at CSU as the main catalyst for the drive I have felt, for decades, to provide help for persons our society too often neglects and marginalizes.

As a first-generation college graduate, I had a myopic view of what I could become, but CSU changed that. My graduate education at CSU enabled me to reach the highest version of myself in all dimensions of my existence – affective, cognitive, and behavioral. It was at CSU where I became keenly aware of my life purpose during an internship experience. I had the opportunity of interning at the Department of Juvenile Justice where I worked with disadvantaged youth. This experiential process provided me with my first "aha moment" and created a physiological shift in me. This was a definitive moment in my life wherein I coalesce my life purpose with a career. I was able to cultivate and actualize this purpose with the support and mentorship of faculty members in the Public Administration and Clinical Mental Health masters programs. CSU helped me develop the self-awareness, knowledge, and skills to be an effective public servant and counselor.

Now, I am a third-year Ph.D. Candidate in the Counselor Education program at Auburn University. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor, Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC), and a Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC), with more than 6 years of experience providing assistance to community and governmental organizations in counseling, advocacy, operations management, and program development and implementation. I have received national recognition for my dedication to social justice and advocacy when I was awarded an NBCC Minority Fellowship. Additionally, I co-developed an undergraduate advocacy course and created the Irreducible Black Male Group at Auburn University, which provides a safe space for black males to actualize their agency. Nonetheless, all of my accomplishments thus far are a direct outcome from my time at CSU. The faculty, staff, and education I received, helped expand my horizon. I hope to continue to use this platform to serve and affect change in the lives of others."