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Tough Obstacles Accomplished Through Perseverance

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Morgan Yates

Tough Obstacles Accomplished through Perseverance

I have been fortunate not to experience many obstacles during my lifetime. The few obstacles that I did face were very minor and did not impact my life greatly. This all changed once I entered my senior year of high school, and it was time to apply for college. My greatest obstacle was the challenge of applying for scholarships to pay my way through college.

It was November of senior year when I received my acceptance letter from Xavier University. This was the happiest day of my life. I attended Xavier's Excel Program the summer before, and since that experience, I knew I wanted to attend Xavier University. I was excited to be accepted into my school of choice. I was proud of the extended and draining moments that I spent studying and ensuring that my grades were acceptable to get a scholarship to Xavier. The long years paid off when I received a letter of acceptance, but the letter stated that I only received a \$2,500-a-year merit scholarship. Still overjoyed about getting accepted into Xavier University, I did not pay attention to this dollar amount because I assumed I had more than enough time to get scholarships. Little did I know how competitive it was to be awarded scholarships. The last several months of my senior year, I struggled to accomplish a new goal that was to be awarded multiple scholarships.

Xavier University is a costly university. With tuition and housing steadily increasing and scholarship funding decreasing, it is difficult not to get overwhelmed. My parents reminded me that they could only cover about \$14,400, which is a little less than half of the total cost to attend. It was my responsibility to cover the other half. With Xavier only giving me \$2,500 a year in scholarships, and TOPS only giving me \$2,300 per semester to attend, I was extremely concerned with how I was going to afford to attend the university. I was left with making a tough

decision: Do I attend Xavier University, the only school that I aspired to attend, and take out \$8,500 in student loans to do so. I quickly decided that I would attend Xavier University regardless of what was necessary. At that moment, I became determined to apply for more scholarships. I decided I would get a job to pay the difference, but I need to get more money from Xavier. So for the next few days I applied for every community and national scholarship I could get. Every day, my tasks were to complete my studies and to research scholarships. After I completed those tasks, I would begin studying for the ACT test. In order to obtain a high scholarship award from Xavier, I had to have a 23 or above on the ACT. Unfortunately, I had a 22 and had taken the test four previous times. On top of my studies and preparing for the ACT, I had two jobs. The first job I began in February, 2014, and the second I began in late March. My schedule was to work at the first job Monday - Wednesday from 3:30-4:30, and the second job I would work Thursday - Sunday from 3:00 until closing. Throughout all this, I still maintained a 3.5 GPA. Many times I got discouraged and did not want to persevere through the moment, but I kept thinking that it would get better once I accomplished my goal. By the end of senior year, I received \$2,000 in outside scholarships, an additional \$2,500 from Xavier, and I was able to earn \$4,000 from my two jobs. I was truly blessed and proud of myself for conquering this difficult task.

In conclusion, you should never look at where you currently are, but where you are headed. At the beginning of senior year, I thought I would have to take out a loan that would damage my credit forever. Through perseverance and prayer, I was able to reach my goal.