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“What makes a successful community college student?”

During my time here at Central Piedmont Community college I have built myself not only academically, but mentally. This freedom of deciding your career without massive cost gives students like myself a sense of liberation. This liberation enables us to focus on the things we truly want to focus on, like planning our futures. With all of this being said, navigating how to plan a meaningful future is quite tough. So, we ask ourselves, what makes a successful community college student? To answer this question, I observe my own experience in community college. After deep reflection, I must say that both self-assurance and perseverance create a successful community college student.

Attaining self-assurance is a common struggle for college students, since every choice we make has some current or future implication. Most of us aren't born with worriless personalities. It is normal to get nervous, but doubting yourself is a recipe for disaster. Thus, self-assurance is something that must be built upon, and it takes time, but it will be well worth it. In order to build this self-assurance, I took risk, I had to. As a community college student, I took the risk of choosing my degree in Associates in Science. This was a personal risk for me, since I wasn't the best student in high school, and I questioned if I had enough “intellect” to complete a science degree. Once I made this decision I began to worry, since I knew that it would be a rough degree to attain. I asked myself what if I fail? What if I am terrible at science? What if I shouldn't become a doctor? Despite this, I did it anyways, and it was the best decision of my life. It took me a while to finally take this risk, but finally I took my first biology course. Surprisingly, I fell in love with the subject. I was obsessed with studying cells, molecules, and complex processes that occur in the human body. Through this decision, I built self-assurance. Afterwards, I took yet another risk. I applied to be a campus ambassador for Project Life, an organization that works towards saving lives by expanding the bone marrow registry. A couple days after I turned in my application, I was notified that I had been granted the position of Project Life campus ambassador here at Central Piedmont Community College. Without having confidence in myself, I would have never had the guts to apply or even consider such a position. Amongst the chaos we must uphold a level of self-assurance, even if we struggle believing in ourselves. You may fail or succeed, but you must remain assured that you control the course of your life. Through taking risks a student can build self-assurance, the key ingredient for current and future success.

Perseverance is probably the most imperative quality of a successful community college student. We always cheerfully tell children “don't give up”, but as most of us know, when face to face with failure, sometimes all you want to do is give up. My journey as a student has been an untraditional one to say the least. I went to boarding school, which did not work out for me. Boarding school left a bitter taste in my mouth, I felt like a “good for nothing student” who would never be good enough to be a doctor or anything for that matter. However, once I joined community college everything changed. My professors were passionate about what they were teaching, and in turn I became passionate about what I was learning. I knew that my teachers believed in me and I knew I didn't want to let them down, but most importantly I didn't want to let myself down. My past consisted of so much failure, but I knew that there was so much more to my life then just being a “terrible high school student”. After my first semester at community college I got straight A's. This was the first time in my life that I saw a 4.00 GPA on my report card. So, how did I make such a change? Despite my defeating past, I persevered, I gave it my all. I didn't know I was capable of attaining a 4.00 GPA, but I did know that I wanted to be a doctor, and I knew I couldn't give up.