Kenneth’s College Experience

1st Year UP Participant

Western Carolina University
Before College

• I found out about the UP Program from my mom. She found it on Thinkcollege.net

• Before I came to WCU I was a volunteer at the Durham VA Medical center.
During College

• Adjusting to college
  – I took one day at a time.
  – Excited to be challenged.

• How did you meet people?
  – Getting involved in clubs and organizations
  – Meeting people through mutual friends

• What do you like?
  – Independence
  – Meeting new people
  – Having new experiences & adventures

• What is challenging?
  – Finding my way around campus
After College

- I want to live in a big city
- Travel to abroad and in the U.S.
- Be successful and work hard
- Marriage
Advice

• Step out of your comfort zone
• Go somewhere you can be outside of an isolated area. Somewhere you can learn on your own.
• Take risks!
• Travel: go on your own vacations away from home
• Take public transportation on your own.
Michael’s College Experience

1st Year UP Participant

Western Carolina University
Before College

• About me
  – Early childhood education
  – Advocate for people with disabilities
  – Sports & live music
• Why did I want to go to college?
  – Wanted to continue education
  – Wanted to be better prepared for life
• How did I find out about the UP Program?
  – ThinkCollege.net
  – Family
  – Personal research
During College

• Adjusting to College
  – Talk to parents & supports
  – Everyone gets confused time to time
  – Set goals to stay focused
  – Confidence & hard work

• Meeting people
  – Finding things in common with others- classic rock
  – Good manners
  – Pi Kappa Phi

• What do you like?
  – Atmosphere- campus, outdoors, & students
  – Supports

• What is challenging?
  – Busy schedule
After College

• How I am getting ready for my life after college?
  – My classes are related to my jobs
  – Thinking more about living where there are more social activities.

• What job do I want?
  – Child care/ teaching assistant

• Where do I want to live?
  – Georgia
  – Apartment or a Condo
Advice

• Advice for students with disabilities who want to go to college?
  – Attend classes that are related to the job you want
  – Work hard and work smart
  – Try to take all the classes that you are interested in
Maleek’s College Experience

1st Year UP Participant

Western Carolina University
Before College

• Who am I?
  – Asheville
  – determined
  – like to help people
  – like team work.

• Needed a challenge

• Vocational Rehabilitation

• Open house & campus tour
During College

• Adjusting
  – I was ready for it
  – Took 1 day at a time

• Meet others
  – Through athletics/sports
  – Hanging out
  – Meals
  – People here like to get along with others. Outgoing. Cool with everything.

• What do you like?
  – Find out what I could do on my own

• What is challenging?
  – Intense days. Nonstop! I was ready for it though.
After College

• How are you going to get ready for your life after college?
  – Working at Catamount store & with the WCU football team
  – Internships/jobs

• What skills do you need?
  – Keep trying to push myself

• What job do you want?
  – Retail- prefer sports store (Champs; Footlocker)
  – sales person/ assistant
Advice

• Go for ALL opportunities
• Don’t let anything hold you back
• People will always be around to help you out
• College is WAY different from high school