At first glance, most people assume they have me all figured out, just another well off Caucasian male who has it easy. In conversation they can hear my education and they assume I am stress free. Unfortunately, I wish this were true. I have lived a life where I was told that college wasn’t an option and graduating high school was the best that I could do. Scholarship after scholarship, I was denied due to my lack of ethnicity or I wasn’t “smart” enough. Then again, I am thankful to have the life I live. Without my experiences, I would not be who I am today. This is my story.

I started my life like most kids do, with a mother and father. I had an older brother and the four us spent time together like most families do. However, in first grade my parents divorced, leaving full custody to my mother. At first, there was no change in the way we lived our lives. Yet, by the time I departed elementary, the never-ending road of financial struggles had begun. Nevertheless, my mom always told me to try something new and encouraged me to do what I loved. Everyday, I push myself to go farther than I did the day before, until I reach the end result of happiness and success. This past year, the aid of my scholarship has allowed me the opportunity to stress over things that matter, such as my academics and my signature experience as a U student. Receiving this scholarship will be a major helping-hand as I continue my college career here at the U.

Once I graduate from the University of Utah with my double major in Sociology and Human Development & Family Studies, including a Leadership Minor and the Diversity Certificate, I plan to shoot for the stars and aim for graduate school. The reason to why I chose this path for my education is due to my interest in people, society, and human behavior. Makes sense right? Well to some, it doesn’t. Many believe that all of the money is in the engineering and science areas, but I’m not looking for the money. I’m searching for success. Success that comes from helping students stay in school, and having them enjoy learning. Counseling and advising is my passion and always will be. Whether I chose secondary education counseling or higher education advising, I want to surround myself by the future; the students. With my undergraduate career set in the right direction, I am already looking into a Masters in Education & Leadership Policy (ELP), in either an emphasis in student affairs or counseling. After completing my masters’, I plan to continue my passion in education and focus my talents and energy on the students that I encounter. Ensuring that future students will become and stay a successful individual during and after completing school. Success comes from happiness; therefore, working with students is my journey to success. What is your journey to success?

Very Respectfully,