SHANE M. WILLIAMSON

Biography: Growing up in a low-income community, I found myself engulfed in literature envisioning a future that often contrasted the one I found myself in. Authors such as Charles Darwin and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle became an integral part of my life. Local schooling was unable to emphasize the importance of education due to lack of funding and being understaffed. Many of the educators had lost their passion for teaching, utilizing older curriculum that no longer sufficed in modern day education, forcing me to take my education into my own hands.

During my time lost in books, I formulated a fascination with an Albert Einstein quote stating, “Genius is one percent talent and ninety-nine percent hard work.” This quote jump-started a love for education and my obsession with intelligence. Whenever I finally looked up from the books that I found myself lost in, I gained insight and realization into that of my own family’s struggles that I had-otherwise been oblivious to. As these struggles became more prominent, my mindset shifted from a quest to become a genius to creating a foundation that would serve the next generations to come. The importance of this “mission” came to fruition when the basis of everyday life became a battle for survival. Because of this I began strategizing and formulating a way to achieve this goal of overcoming the struggles of being raised by a single mother, forced into homelessness, and being fearful of where our daily meal would come from. Over the years, I have overcome these daily battles through blood, sweat, and tears and endless sacrifice, becoming financially literate and opening my own business. This was the beginning of a reality that I only dreamt of, which would become some of the first achievements that would help create a legacy for later generations with an emphasis on thriving rather than survival, and action rather than inaction.

PERSONAL MISSION

It is action that ultimately drives social change, and that is why I have some much admiration for Phi Theta Kappa’s emphasis on meaningful service based on research. My mission is to support that effort in ordinary and extraordinary ways.

WEBSITE

This is a link to my website where I speak a little bit more about myself and what projects I am currently working on.

https://shanemw209.wixsite.com/website-1