

Just another statistic?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau there are 308,745,538 people in the United States and out of that number there are 38,929,319 African Americans. In 2009, 3,111 African Americans obtained a bachelors degree and 1,215 received a master's degree. As I read that alarming statistic I thought to myself "this number could not be accurate."

I then researched educational statistics for foster youth and found that only 60% of foster youth graduate from high school and from that only 10% go to college or vocational programs. Out of that 10% only 4% obtain a degree or certificate and 2% obtain a bachelors degree or higher. Being apart of that 2% of foster youth makes feel happy but also sad. I would like to see more of us walk across the stage and exceed those educational statistics.

I know it is a struggle to survive let alone pursue anything that requires an abundant amount of our time. It took two different CSU's, two community colleges, a year and a half break along with personal issues going on at the same time to obtain my degree. Now that I am done with that part of my life I feel like I can move mountains and that my limit is pass the sky.

I had to put people, parties and family on the back burner but it was well worth it. My daughter and I have a better life because of it and I am a better person because of my perseverance.

If you're a single parent, you can do it. If you have no family or have family drama members, you can do it. Your boyfriend/ girlfriend giving you drama, you can still do it. Set your goals and prioritize. I know people tell you all the time that you can do it but I am a living testimony of the things you can accomplish. **YOU CAN DO IT!!!**

I've been blessed and fortunate to have been surrounded with black educated and successful people and entrepreneurs who encouraged me and laid that foundation I needed to follow.

Now I am laying that foundation for my daughter, for single parents, for Black/African American women, but most importantly for you. The system was not made for us to succeed. Let's show them what we as Foster can really do. 😊

I hope my words encourage you on your journey in whatever avenue you choose to pursue. College isn't for everyone; you can still do great things without a degree. Follow your passion and be the best at it.