



Transfer Success Story



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My story and journey began 6,000 miles away in my family home in Nigeria with my parent's dream of providing me and my siblings with the opportunity to attend prestigious universities and have successful professional careers. The pursuit of that dream, together with an economic crisis in Nigeria, and dangerous Boko Haram activity prompted my parent's decision to move their four children to the United States. Leaving Nigeria was tough, but living as an undocumented immigrant in America for four years was tougher. Although my immigration status inhibited me, I refused to let it limit my collegiate education and my dream of becoming an engineer.

After graduating from Roger C. Sullivan High School, I was initially admitted into the Grainger College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I could not attend due to financial reasons. I later enrolled at Wilbur Wright College, where I was admitted to the inaugural cohort of the Engineering Pathways guaranteed admissions program to UIUC. I was awarded the Chicago Star Scholarship and other scholarships which paid for my tuition and books during my time at Wright College.

The Engineering Pathways program allowed me to challenge myself by taking math and science courses in preparation for my transfer. I have always been very inquisitive about engineering and the inner workings of technological innovations. This, as well as my experiences during the pathways program, propelled me to choose electrical engineering as my major. I successfully completed the 2-year pathways program with a 3.85 GPA and transferred into the prestigious electrical and computer engineering department at UIUC on a full-ride scholarship.

Transferring into UIUC was a big academic and cultural shock to me. From the size of the university that I was not used to, to the exponentially rigorous academic courses I was taking as a transfer student, I almost felt mentally underprepared for the challenges I faced, and UIUC started to feel more like a twilight of my dreams. I felt it was all over at the beginning of my junior year, and I started to lose hope in getting to the finish line. It was not until I was intentional about reshaping the way I viewed failure in general, that I was able to pinpoint the areas in my life in need of development and to restructure my daily habits. Success takes initiative no matter who you are, where you are coming from, or where you are going. With the help, love, and support from my mentors and my network at the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), I was able to recalibrate my choices, actions, and habits. My extracurricular activities and leadership roles in various student organizations helped me develop and propel my leadership growth while increasing my attention to detail.

I graduated from UIUC and secured a career with Eaton Corporation as a power systems engineer. My undergraduate studies in electrical engineering have shown me that there are still many unexplored areas in the integration and distribution of efficient power systems on a global scale. My hope is that I can explore and learn more about these areas and create new systems, designs, and ideas that directly impact our community. Joining a community of like-minded individuals at Eaton has been an empowering and valuable opportunity for my personal growth as an engineer. I encourage aspiring engineers to embrace failure as part of your journey, your personal growth, and your story. Never let your current situation define your destination.