

The Life Altering Experience

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For two-years, I have enjoyed being a member of the Bronco MILE. I have specifically enjoyed serving as a peer-leader, engaging in study halls, and participating in co-curricular travel experiences. All of these experiences have been integral to my growth and development as well as contributed to my academic success.

For three-years, the MILE has spearheaded “Boosting Bronco Brothers Transition to FSU Initiative” (B³). It’s an opportunity to help create a solid platform for the success of first-year males. I have participated in all three. This year’s B³ entailed many of the previous signature experiences, including workshops, bonding, staying up all night at Rock Fish talking about topics that matter, and enjoying the family-style meals and pleasant interactions with the staff of Rock Fish.

Yet, this year’s B³ was a life altering experience for me. Before Camp Rock Fish, I was basically in college at the direction of my parents. I had loss sight of my level of motivation. However, after hearing the profound speech of Mr. Juan Langford, a motivational speaker who was invited to inspire us, his message provoked my thinking in ways that had never occurred before. “Find an emotional attachment to drive you toward positivity and success” was one statement by Juan Langford that resonated with me and has had incredible staying power.

I immediately thought of my 17 year-old brother who dropped out of high school during his sophomore year. No matter how much I tried to persuade him to get an education, the streets, drugs, and violence was a bigger influence than my words of encouragement.

On the verge of giving up on my little brother, Mr. Langford's message gave me the fortitude to better encourage my little brother re-examine his life choices. I now make a more concerted effort to succeed in everything I do as a means to model the way for him. If I can show my brother that I can do it, he can do it. I now know that there is nothing back home except the life that is an albatross around his shoulders and others. I now know that if I do not push myself beyond my own standards, I will end up back home with no degree and nothing to show as a symbol of success.

The streets that I know is like a black hole—void of nothing and hard to escape. I do not want him to be further sucked into one. Since leaving Camp Rock Fish and taking in Mr. Langford's words of encouragement and inspiration, I read a new book every week, I've created two different resumes—one for graduate school and one for employment—and I utilize the opportunities that are afforded to me. For example, being on a campus full of experienced and successful professors and mentors, I make it a daily goal to meet at least one new person a day, utilizing the opportunity of improve my interpersonal skills and even to expand my understandings about new subject matters.

Overall, the honor of being in the Bronco MILE and Dr. DeSousa setting up the Camp Rock Fish experience, has changed my life tremendously and I encourage everyone to join B³ as and you'll experience a life altering experience that I will use to better alter not just my path but, more importantly, the path of my little brother.