

My name is Aris Lawson. I am a junior and my major is Business Administration Management and I am a minor in dance.

I am a non-traditional student. So, I am employed here in Fayetteville. My daughter is actually a student at UNCP and as I was getting her prepared to start her college journey it made me remember when I started mine over 20 years ago and it inspired me to return and finish my degree, so.

Professor Avis Hatcher Puzo, she is our professor for dance and she has been very encouraging. Being one of the only adult students over the age of 20 in her class you know she encourages me to keep pushing, and also Dr. Spiller. The other professor that has been very encouraging and inspiring has been Dr. Lightner who is the chair for the business administration management concentration majors. She's been very inspiring, encouraging, giving a lot of wisdom and direction. And it's great to know that we are fully supported here and being a non-traditional student you feel kind of on the outside but they make a very big point to pull us all in and make sure that we have a connection and engagement even as a management concentration major.

Fayetteville State, it's a smaller school and one of the things that I love about it is you are immediately connected into a community. There's no lone ranger here. Somehow or another you will be connected. The professors know you by name. They take a personal interest in you and it's just it's just a really lovely and warm place to be.

I am proud to be a Bronco because Fayetteville State has an amazing history for North Carolina for blacks and I'm proud because they are pushing forward. They are not willing to settle and let that history die but they are pushing forward and making a point to put that into the hearts of the young generation coming.