

Chapter Five: The I Did It, U-Can Stage

Having successfully achieved your goal, using your story to inspire others

In August 2013, I had an interview with Dr. Viverette to discuss possibilities for my internship. Dr. Viverette had the following to share with me:

“John, you’ve come a long way, from your 2.07 high school GPA to a current GPA of 3.68. You’ve used our office from day one, back in August 2009. Your website is amazing and innovative in the way that you’ve captured your higher learning journey. John, you will be in high demand, with people across the country inquiring why, when, how, who, and what made you take on this challenge.

“You’ve been telling me for years that you’ve heard and witnessed the obvious problem of African American males not enrolling in or graduating from college. You often spoke with me about how you wanted to be part of the solution to this problem. You now have actions to back up your words, and your story is simply amazing.

“You may want to do research and see how the 36 universities in the Georgia Board of Regents are dealing with this issue. Some have created programs to assist. My suggestion is that you consider creating a program or tool VSU can use to attract and retain African American male students. The goal would be for your example, starting and finishing college, to be standard rather than an exception. Your challenge is to create some kind of way for the program or tool to be used after you graduate in December. I think you may be surprised at the outcome of packaging the story contained on your website to inspire other African American males. This is not a command, but it’s something you may want to consider for your fall semester internship.”

What a powerful reminder of how we can use our lives, our stories, and our success to inspire those who will come after. Once your goal is in sight, start thinking about how you can use what you’ve learned, what you’ve gained, and what you’ve been through to reach out beyond the walls of your school to the community and the world. In this chapter I’ll share motivation and inspiration for living in the “real world” in the years beyond graduation.

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U-CAN!
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1st Book: Return To Honor: A Soldier Story

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2nd Book Graduating With Honors: If I-Can, U-Can!

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00HNY8SAU>

Memberships & Affiliations

2007 Valdosta-Lowndes County Chamber of Commerce

2012 National Society of Leadership Success

2013 Who's Who Class Among College Students

2014 VSU Phi Kappa Phi. Honorary Society

WELL DONE IS BETTER THAN WELL SAID? BENJAMIN FRANKLIN