

The background from which I come from is varied. My father is a white Caucasian man, who grew up in Hopkins Park becoming a product of his environment. Prior to meeting my mother, my father did not have the cleanest of records, which stem from his hobby of all things' cars. Whether it had been driving on a suspended license or the intent to sell, he did what he felt he had to do to preserve his happiness within himself and through his hobbies. My mother on the other hand, hardly has a record looking past a seatbelt violation. My mother is the oldest of six siblings, her motherly survival instincts kicked in earlier than most. Upon graduation my mother received a Presidential Scholarship to one of the best schools in the U.S, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, unfortunately she decided to drop out of college before her first year had finished. She met a man and began a family with him in Danville, Virginia, she had two children with him, my brother and sister before dissolving the marriage to come back home. When she moved back home, she began working with her father at a paint manufacturing company and has been there for twenty years. My mother is a strong, Black Woman.

I may not have been able to see their entire story, what I have seen, I have learned and applied that knowledge and experiences to the growth of my own life. Continuing along the path I have made, I am transferring to Illinois State University to graduate with my B.S in Early Childhood Education, as I work my way through to my second degree I do wish and aspire to complete master's work to earn a master's degree in the same field. My end goal is to become a principal, before I dive into that endeavor, I do wish to put at least 4 years of teaching under my belt, for the experiences and lessons it can provide. The transition from community college to university is one that I am excited about yet, am anxiously waiting for. The change of environment I believe will be great for me, allowing me to expand my reach and begin to know who I truly am. I am using this transition as a path into adulthood, taking on more responsibilities and becoming more involved. I have found interest in numerous student activities

and campus and commit to engaging in more community service opportunities, not only in recognitions sake but for myself, to improve my well-being and humanity. I also commit to working more closely in my own community and especially the community that helped me grow and mold me into the successful, young woman I am and continue to be, getting better and more evolved. I promise more devotion to the C.R.A.F.T organization, Pembroke Township, and my city of Kankakee, pouring into the communities and youth who did the same for me.