

Connections to Success Story Script – Damion

I was always like on the honor role, expected to be a great student, won spelling bees. Just you know, people would always come to tell me God's got a plan for you, there's something for you, there's something for you. When my parents moved to Alaska there was a lot of fighting in the house, and I just became real disturbed. I didn't know it at the time, but it was really affecting me, what was going on in the house. So one day my dad came home, and he said "you know your mom and I are thinking about getting a divorce" and at that point he said "well you're the man of the house now." And unfortunately that caused me to do a lot of things that broke the law, and hurt a lot of people. I was incarcerated for about eight and a half almost nine years in federal prison. And I ended up giving my life to Christ, and my whole life changed my whole mentality. I get out, not knowing what is going on, I mean the economy was wrecked. So once I got to the half-way house I went to some organizations to seek employment, I felt like I was more of a number, a statistic. Connections to Success came to the half-way house and they made their pitch, I was truly touched. I thought okay, this might be the place for me. I guess you can go anywhere to learn skills to help you find a job, but there are other skills that are necessary in life for us to be able to reintegrate into society. To know that you can express yourself without having to do it in a violent or aggressive manner, but I think the most important thing for me was the fact that I felt like they treated me as a person. You know, I wasn't just a number I was somebody who actually had a life. Currently I am employed with UMKC, I work with the school newspaper "UNews". I just graduated with a double major, one in Spanish, one in Communications, summa cum laude, and I'm also enrolled to return to UMKC for my Masters, Public Administration with a Non-Profit emphasis, probably with a double emphasis in Urban Planning.

Me llamo Damion Alexander, y soy un alumno de Connections to Success.