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LSEM52

Footprints

For some, it’s a flight to the moon and footprints in the surface rock. For many, it’s the clay imprint of the foot of an unborn child. For others, it’s a genuine smile plastered across a loved one’s face as you proceed across the stage to receive a diploma. We all have dreams and aspirations for the future we have left on this earth; we all want to leave a trail of footprints marking all that we have done and all whom we have positively affected along the way. As further elaborated by Colonel Murphy, in the novel “The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates” by Wes Moore, “When it is time for you to leave this school, leave your job, or even leave this earth, you make sure you have worked hard to make sure it mattered you were ever even here” (133). Although the numerous variations are endless, we all possess this general dream in one way or another. For me, specifically in my college career, I hope to leave a trail of footprints throughout Longwood University whether it be in respect to my peers, myself, or within my pursuit of a nursing degree.

Ever since I was a junior in high school, I knew for a fact that a career in nursing was in my future. I was blessed enough to be accepted into the competitive nursing program here at Longwood University and I will in turn put my best foot forward at all times to ensure that I receive the degree I came here for after four years of schooling. Looking ahead, I realize there will be a lot of studying and memorizing. I will in turn lose much valued free time and probably stretch myself too far at some point in my four years here. I must remind myself often, as Levy reminded the other Wes Moore “It won’t be easy; it will take work and it will take commitment. Even when the days are tough, you have got to push through” (139). In order to avoid these struggles as much as possible, I must give myself breaks in between my study time whether it’s a break to grab dinner with friends or going on a run down High Bridge Trail to clear my head. However, when I am studying I must do myself a favor and put all my attention into the task at hand in order to give myself as much possible time to myself in return. This is something I hope to learn and eventually master in my college career. Strictly regarding my time here as a nursing student, I hope to have left my footprints behind by the time commencement rolls around. As a student nurse, I will be doing clinicals in the local hospital and I hope to give back to the community of Farmville through this experience and in whatever ways I am able.

I have always been very close to my family and the relationships I share with each of them are very special to me. I miss their presence often and sometimes I worry that it will get in the way of pursuing my dreams for my college career. Since I’ve been at college, I feel very guilty that I’m not physically able to be there for them. I can’t be the shoulder they can lean on. Wes Moore also expressed similar feelings toward his stay at military school. He said, “Even though I had grown to love military school, I still had mixed emotions about being there, and they were eating me. I wanted to be home, to talk to Justin after he left the hospital. I didn’t know what to say, but at least I’d be there” (118). Practicing self-resilience, I have had to remind myself that even though sometimes I miss home, I am very blessed to be exactly where I am today. At this age, Longwood University is the best place for me to be, as furthering my education is the smartest and best thing I could be doing for myself. This is where my family and loved ones want me to be. They are proud of me and they marvel at all I have since achieved. In order to overcome my sadness and homesickness, I have learned to utilize the fact that they are all just a phone call away and are always more than happy to hear from me.

Second to my academic success, but not far behind, is my dream to enjoy myself by getting involved in the community of Longwood University. I have already joined the club field hockey team here and plan on furthering my involvement as the years go by and as time allows. I would like to join the Honors Student Association, and the Nursing Student Association, as well as the Operation Smile Club. Personally, I enjoy doing well in school and I always have. But it is important to give myself breaks and expand my social horizons. I must remember that college has way more to offer me than just academics. I aspire to enjoy myself throughout these next four years at Longwood University, both socially and academically. And in the end, I hope that the knowledge I have learned and the experiences I will have gained will set the path for a bright, happy, and successful future. With that being said, I hope I can leave my footprints throughout this beautiful University to which I already possess a deep love for. To me, even the simple things are worth experiencing and leaving my mark on: whether it is being a shoulder to lean on, editing and improving a fellow peers research paper, or just being that person who constantly exhibits kindness in the face of others.

Over time, I am sure my dreams will change or vary in priority, but is important that I not give up on something that truly matters to me in the face of adversity. So long as the thought of completing my goal makes me thrilled enough to keep on persevering, it is worth doing so and therefore I must push through. Resilience to me is just that; being able to push through all of the struggles one may face in order to achieve whatever goal is ahead. If you can still view the illuminating light at the end of the tunnel, and you still withhold the outstanding desire to reach out and obtain its brightness, then the self-resilience within you will overcome any obstacle that will come your way. Inevitably, I will face defeat and stumble upon roadblocks along the way, but I owe it to myself to practice resilience at all times in which they come between where I am and where I dream to be.