



Meet CollegeBound Scholar Daniel Muchai

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I was born in Nairobi, Kenya and immigrated to the United States at 8 years old. Education is a priority in my family and my parents always envisioned their children receiving a higher education. Growing up in the United States has been a blessing because I have had much better opportunities than I would have received in Kenya.

When I was in elementary and middle school, I did not care about school and my grades. I had the opportunity to go back to Nairobi during this time in my life and I was able to reprioritize and get my education back on track. During my visit, I was reminded about the challenges many students face in their quest for education. In Nairobi, students have to pay to attend school; many families do not have the money so students are forced to drop out.

With hard work and dedication, I graduated in the top 5% of my class at National Academy Foundation. I was accepted to five universities and ultimately decided to attend the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. In the fall of 2008 I left Baltimore and headed to UMES to achieve my goals, declaring my major in Hotel & Restaurant Management.

Since starting college, I have learned two essential life lessons: the importance of time management and the significance of knowing your values and setting goals. I have learned to keep my values and goals at the forefront of my mind to ensure my priorities are in check. A college education is extremely expensive and I know that I need to concentrate on my studies and I am thankful for the opportunity, because not everyone gets the chance to obtain a college degree.

When I graduate in 2012, I hope to work in hotel management. My interest in the hospitality industry originally grew out of my love of travel and my love for being hospitable to others. After taking hospitality & tourism classes at NAF, I knew I wanted to make a career out of it. Not only did I learn about a booming industry and a future career, but I also had the opportunity to shadow people within the industry and participate in hands-on activities, which helped foster my growing interest.

I owe many thanks to my teachers at National Academy Foundation and to the CollegeBound Foundation. The encouragement, assistance and support you provide keep me striving for my best.

Daniel Muchai is finishing his sophomore year at University of Maryland Eastern Shore and has a 3.66 cumulative GPA. He is the recipient of a CollegeBound Foundation Last Dollar Grant.

CONTACT

Craig E. Spilman, Ph.D., Executive Director
CollegeBound Foundation
(p) 410.783.2905 | (f) 410.727.5786
cspilman@collegeboundfoundation.org

Jimmy Tadlock, Program Director
CollegeBound Foundation
(p) 410.783.2905 | (f) 410.727.5786
jtadlock@collegeboundfoundation.org

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