

Hello everyone, my name is Marcus Stubbs and I am currently a PhD student at Bellarmine University getting my degree in Education and Social Change. Thank you for allowing me to join in on the tele-conference and engaging with you all. I would like to share my story of how the Kentucky Youth Career Center has helped me to engage in joining the workforce.

Before I was introduced to this program my family and I were homeless. It was hard to be socially mobile and it was not easy being able to engage in the workforce. After we transitioned out of homelessness, I heard about how Kentucky Youth Career Center could give me resources that would aid in my trajectory towards success. I was assigned to Ms. Emilia as my career planner, and we worked together to create a career and education plan for me, as I was determined to attend college. Ms. Emilia did all she could to help make sure I was on top of being responsible for my own path. We had meaningful discussions on time management, leadership and having integrity. She has been a strong friend and advisor for me throughout my college years and up to today!

When I joined the KYCC, I knew for me to become socially mobile I had to be financially stable, so that meant I had to get a job. The program helped me to get a job through the SummerWorks program at Walmart. That job helped me to become financially stable and allowed me to become a good steward. Ms. Emilia continued to check in with me and to cheer me on as I continued to strive to be the best person I can be and to try to become college ready. My job allowed me to buy a laptop and have money for other expenses to be prepared for college life at Western Kentucky University. As I continued to work hard, I could come back to Walmart and work during school breaks and eventually they allowed me to transfer whenever I went to school so that I also worked at a Walmart in Bowling Green while I was in college. This partnership that I had with KYCC allowed me to understand that with hard work and perseverance I can try to reach my goals the best I can. This program has aided me in more than just giving me a job, they gave me hope.

Today, I'm proud to let you know that I've got a bachelor's and master's degree from WKU and am now pursuing my PhD at Bellarmine. I found the KYCC at a critical moment in my life, and they really helped me when I needed it. I know they will do the same for many more young people in Louisville if you increase their funding for next year!