

SUNY Broome graduate teaches English as a foreign language

May 8, 2015

Shauntanika Alexander is an accomplished communicator. While at SUNY Broome, Shauntanika was a member of Student Assembly, the International Student Organization, LingoNet and Speakers of the House (Toastmasters International). A May 2014 graduate, she was still active on campus until August 2014, working as a Student Assistant in the Admissions Office.

Two of her favorite classes were Introduction to Acting and Spanish. Acting gave her a way to become more comfortable with herself, and to learn how to project her naturally soft voice. Spanish enhanced her ability to communicate with others, and to connect with part of her own heritage.

Shauntanika found that Student Assembly serves the College well by giving students an opportunity for their voices to be heard. It creates a channel of communication between students, administration, faculty and staff. While serving on Student Assembly she believed she had a responsible leadership role, one that could benefit individuals or groups on campus, and the College community as a whole.

After a post-graduation vacation trip to the Dominican Republic, Shauntanika finished her online TESOL TEFL (Teach English to Speakers of Other Languages/Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certification – while working part-time and helping to support her family during some health issues. In February 2015, she received her first teaching position for a Japanese company, Eigox, teaching 25-minute online sessions to Japanese students, in either Japan or in the United States. She says it can be challenging teaching online, but the main goal she keeps in her heart is to help the students understand as much as possible, as if she were there with them in person.

She hopes to travel to the Dominican Republic or to Central America and to teach English there.

When asked what she misses the most about SUNY Broome, she says it is the people and all the activities that are available here. She says that the International Student Organization and Speakers of the House both helped her to become who she is, by encouraging her to try new things.

Her advice to students is to keep in mind that each day is a learning process, both in and outside the classroom. Participation in extracurricular activities is a great way to learn and to make friends in the process. She also recommends that students take some time during their first semester to get used to college, and to get used to themselves as college students. She believes no one should give up if they have some difficulties. If they reach out and look for support, they will find it all the help they will need.

SUNY Broome helped her develop a network within the campus community and helped her to push herself further, even when she felt like she was seconds away from giving up. She hopes she can offer that helping hand to her own students, because there were many helping hands in her life as she was growing up.

Shauntanika's experience at SUNY Broome has helped her to find her voice, and to discover more about who she is. She intends to continue her daily journey of discovery, and we look forward to her sharing some of her new learning (and teaching) experiences with us in the future.

LingoNet: <https://www.sunybroome.edu/web/www/lingonet-club>

ISO: <http://www.sunybroome.edu/web/www/international-student-organization>

Student Assembly: <https://mycollege.sunybroome.edu/web/shared-governance/student-assembly>

Speakers of the House: <http://speakersofthehouse.toastmastersclubs.org/>

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