

Jamyia Freeman: Cable Co-Op Scholarship Essay

During my time in Oberlin, I have learned a lot about the people around me, as well as my own identity and what I care about. In this town, I value spending quality time with the people I love and the many opportunities I have been lucky enough to experience.

I work at Kendal, an Oberlin retirement community, as an aid for elderly people who need assistance with daily life. I help residents maintain a healthy diet, keep them up to date with their weight, and ensure their overall happiness. Every time I walk into my job, my day immediately becomes better. I specifically remember my third week on the job, being surprised to connect with Nancy, one of the residents. She is someone who I now would call my best friend. Even though she doesn't remember my name, our connection is electric. Her face lights up whenever I'm in her presence, and her questions about my day make it all the better. Nancy has inspired me to become a geriatric nurse where I hope to be more than just a doctor, building meaningful connections with the people I'm helping.

I value the sunny days when my cousin, brother and I go downtown to play basketball. I become hot and dehydrated from walking twenty minutes to the court across from Huntington Bank, but spending time throwing a ball around with my family members is worth all the sweatiness. I remember walking down Main Street and coming across Blue Rooster Bakery for the first time. When I entered, I immediately smelled the delicious baked goods and felt the welcoming and cozy atmosphere. I ran over to see what was displayed. There were all kinds of home-made goods and I wanted them all, but I settled on the oatmeal raisin cookie, which was delicious.

I have enjoyed truly getting to know what Oberlin is all about, becoming more involved in my community, trying new shops around town, and getting brain freezes from Gibson's ice cream. At Oberlin, I feel a sense of inclusion, especially during the big festivals full of inviting people who persuade you to buy at-home creations or just a good, fulfilling pastry. My mom and I heard about this amazing apple festival on a Saturday evening, and we decided to attend the next day. It was a beautiful day in the middle of the summer, so instead of riding in the car we decided to walk and get all the vitamin D. My siblings also decided to join in on what Oberlin had in store for us.

Oberlin is earthy, as the people here are their own individuals, and it shows that no matter who you are as a person you are always welcome here. The town of Oberlin has helped me learn about the importance of caring for others in my community and provided a space for me to take on challenges to achieve my goals. I am thankful that I have been able to experience a town full of talented people who run privately-owned small businesses, which has taught me that I can do anything I put my mind to!