

How An International Education Will Help Me Make a Difference in the World

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I consider myself fortunate though I have had my fair share of hardships in life. I was born in Ahamansu, a farming community in one of the poorest regions in Ghana, the Volta Region. My chances of doing anything positive in my life was negatively affected when I was struck by polio at a tender age of 3 and became paralyzed in my left leg. I overcame various financial and health related challenges to obtain an honorary degree in Actuarial Science in 2010 and worked as an actuarial analyst with a consultancy firm in Ghana. I aspire to be a distinguished health actuary, a decision I took after experiencing the challenges low income earners encounter in accessing and paying for quality health services. This can be solved with affordable yet cost effective health insurance products. I wish to apply my love for mathematics to help in the development of these health insurance products. My passion combined with my curiosity for the subject matter and the boundless potential of the field are the reasons why I decided to pursue a graduate program in Mathematics at the Youngstown State University, Ohio. This step is one of the most important milestones in my career development because of the quality of education here in Youngstown State University and the United States as a whole. I also look forward to interacting with people from various nations to gain a wider perspective on issues.

Through the skills and knowledge I will gain in the pursuit of my graduate education, I hope to contribute substantially to the accessibility of quality health services to the poor and under privileged. I am a firm believer in making a positive difference in my society, one day at a time. During my undergraduate studies, I served as the President of the Physically Challenged Students Association in our school. I undertook various projects, notable amongst them was creating the Students with Disability Unit at the Office of the Dean of Students, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. This office is now a one stop point for students who have any form of disability to document their disability and also seek help from the school administration in support of their education. I am currently the organizing secretary for the local African Students Union in Youngstown State University. My roles include coordinating the activities of the union and liaising with external bodies to help integrate the students better into the American educational system. Our main project for Spring 2016 is dedicating one hundred volunteer hours to tutor in local high schools and also mentor high school students during this year's Volunteer Week. I also personally volunteer to various events organized under the auspices of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics-YSU.

Looking ahead, I recognize that I have a long way to go in attaining my vision. However, I am confident that with hard work, dedication and the support of others, I will attain my goal and help make life better for others.