

Tiarra Wright

February 3rd, 2016

Since I came to Chicago State University, I have not only grown educationally but also as a person. When I first came to CSU I was a timid, young suburban girl from Massachusetts. Looking back I can now acknowledge how ignorant I was to many world issues and topics and I believe Chicago State University has changed this. I am much more socially conscious now and that is one of the reasons I love Chicago State University.

In addition to growing as a person I have encountered numerous amazing professors who have helped along the way. In the history program primarily I have been nothing but encouraged by my professors. They not only challenged me intellectually but socially as well. They have taught my peers and myself to take control of our knowledge and apply it to the world or how to use it in our own classrooms one day. I have felt nothing but inspired by my professors here at Chicago State University and hope to pass that on to my own students one day. I knew I always wanted to be a teacher because I love children, but now I love history just as much so I can't wait to merge my passions together and share it with the world.

One of the major things I think I have taken from Chicago State University is having a sense of pride in myself and my culture. While Chicago State University is

diverse, every teacher prepares you for the world removing the stigma of race and exclusively focuses on making us great individuals. Although I didn't go to a school like UIC or U of C, I am very confident in my education. I feel that I can stand up to anybody from anywhere because of my education and what has been instilled in me at Chicago state University. I now have a strong passion to help my community and give back a piece of what I have been given over the past five years.

Khalie Robinson
Dr. Kuzdale
February 3, 2015
History Seminar 4950
Paper #1

During my time at Chicago State University as an undergrad, I have learned many things from all my classes but nothing stands out more than what I learned from the classes in my history program. For starters, I received a depth and vast knowledge of history from all my professors. From Dr. Kimble I learned about labor and race relations, with Dr. Rowe I gained knowledge in world history (WW1& WW2, Caribbean history and European history) and with Dr.Kuzdale I gained significant knowledge of the Middle Ages (especially the Great Crusades!). I also gained a great appreciation and respect for the History professors at CSU for what they do.

In addition, I learned research tips such as identifying the difference between a primary and secondary source, finding the author's argument, identifying bias information and citing my sources correctly. The undergrad program also made me a better writer due to the criticism I got from all my history professors. Many times I would get papers back with a sea of red ink, but the criticism pointed out my mistakes which I learned from which only made a better writer. The undergrad program also gave me an appreciation for historians and the hard work that they due to provide not only students but the world with the information they find from research. In all, I enjoyed the Undergraduate History program at CSU and I feel it's given a strong and vast knowledgeable background in history that could rival any other institution's history program.

John M. Wheeler
History 4950-01

Reflection Paper

In class it was asked of myself and my classmates to write a reflection paper on our undergraduate education has taught us. I came to Chicago State University in the fall semester of 2010 after being at a community college for a year and a half. I had actually been out of school for quite some time when I enrolled at CSU, so I was actually rusty. The one constant that I have noticed from all the professors I have had in the history and political science programs respectively, is to challenge everything you learn and do your own research before you come to a conclusion of accepting it as fact. In high school, you just kind of learn to do the work that is assigned to you and to memorize things. However, in college you are challenged to think critically in every thing you learn, even in math and science classes.

Personally, one of my primary weaknesses was gathering source material properly. I actually almost failed a history class due to accusations of plagiarism. My professor could have flunked me or dismissed me from the institution, but he didn't. Instead, he took time out of his very busy schedule and helped me one on one to learn how to properly research and cite sources when writing a paper. I ended up getting a B as my final grade in that course, and I have since taken 3000 and 4000 level courses, which require you to cite sources and I have never had an issue with it again. I think one of my primary strengths is that I love to learn and I love being in school. Even after this degree is completed, I am going back to school to learn something new. I

think this translates into my work because if you don't enjoy something, then you're usually not going to do well in it because you're not going to give it your all.

As far as a weakness of the program, I really can't see any. Our professors are excellent and take the time to make sure that we understand the material. The classes are small, so we get a lot of one on one instruction. However, I have also had large classes with 50-100 students, and the professors still went out of their way to make sure we got the material. The weaknesses of the program lie in external sources such as the administration, which is experiencing a changing of the guard that looks to be promising. Also, now political issues with the state that affect us since we are a public university, but you'll never hear me say anything bad or critical about the academic component of our institution.

In closing, I have grown a lot as a student and as a person in my five years here as a student. I believe that I have been given the tools that I need to keep succeeding as a student. My current degree is in an art and I am switching over to a science for my next degree. This will be difficult but I believe I have what it takes to succeed, in no small part to my experience here at Chicago State University.