

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BRANDON GHORAM



Brandon Ghoram

Birthplace: Neuendettleslau, Germany

Now lives: Midwest City OK

High School: Fountain-Fort Carson High School (Colorado)

Field of Study: Diversified Studies

OCCC Attendance: Four semesters

Scholarships received: Ralph Gamel Scholarship

Favorite pastimes: Basketball and Connect Four are my downtime hobbies. I like reading, sketching, writing, and hanging out with family. I also enjoy being involved with volunteer work.

What are your educational goals?

Upon completion of my degree at OCCC, I am going to transfer to a university out of state. I plan to double major in English and Sociology/Economics. It is my goal to eventually earn a doctorate in my postgraduate studies.

What are your professional goals?

I am still exploring career fields. My passions are writing, social responsibility, fashion, and creativity.

What have been your favorite things about attending school at OCCC?

The overall diversity of OCCC is something that I truly appreciate. There are so many stories at this school. People with different interests, perspectives, and passions. It is a unique experience.

Have you had any favorite teachers or classes?

My favorite instructors have been Darby Johnsen, Stephanie Hayes, Lynnette Bloomberg, Sharon Vaughan, and Julie Corff. They share the congruity of either completely challenging my perceptions or sharpening my skills and confidence.

What has being a scholarship recipient meant to you?

A teacher once told me, "Out of 7 billion people in the world, only 1% receive a college education." If you just sit and ponder that, it is really a confounding fact. It helped me understand how truly fruitful the college experience is. To have help paying for my education is a blessing I am grateful for. It means being able to spend more time studying and with family, and less time at work. It means having the option to choose more meaningful experiences. It opens up time to focus on my passions and career planning. Upon entering the workforce, I will have less qualms about student loan debt.

Have you previously lived or are you now living in circumstances you would describe as being more challenging than those facing the standard "broke college student"?

I have dealt with a long term health condition which has contributed to several medical issues in the last couple of years, the worst of which took nearly a year of rehabilitation. My rehab process put me shoulder to shoulder with men and women oftentimes 3-5 times my senior. The brevity of life is something I was forced to give deep consideration. Living with this condition is sometimes very taxing. I look completely healthy, but there are days I wake up with absolutely no energy. Yet I have learned how to challenge myself within the confines of my body. It has given me a true understanding that life is something that cannot be taken for granted.

SPOTLIGHT

A Publication of the OCCC Association of Alumni & Friends

- Donate to the OCCC Foundation to help students achieve their dreams

- Join the Association of Alumni & Friends www.occc.edu/alumni