

June 11, 2021

Professional Staff Caucus Scholarship

Dear Donors,

Thank you for your generous support towards my education in the Computer Sciences. I am currently going to Buffalo State College full time and my full attention is on my education.

My uncle James Stranz, an alumnus of Buffalo State College, built me my first computer when I was 12 years old. I wanted to be just like him and so in 2004 I started my Computer Information Systems path in High School through Genesee Valley BOCES and Genesee Community College. I wanted to further my computer career by serving in the U.S. Air Force; however, the Air Force needed me elsewhere and I was happy to serve. Unfortunately, my Air Force career has ended and after 13 years, I can finally pursue my education and career in the Computer Sciences. I spoke with my uncles David and James Stranz, whom are both alumni of Buffalo State, and they advised me to move to Buffalo, NY and pursue my B.S. degree in Computer Information Systems.

Medically, it hasn't been easy for me. With the constant full body physical pain and mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, it's a daily struggle getting out of bed and making my dream a reality. However, I have been utilizing all the disability and medical services Buffalo State and the Veterans Affairs Healthcare has to offer. My first semester at Buffalo State was bumpy, but I have found that God meets all my needs, and the Air Force did a great job teaching me that hard work and attention to detail really pays off. I am happy to say that in December 2021 I am projected to graduate.

Future, I plan on pursuing my M.S. degree in Information Assurance and Cyber Security at University at Buffalo and applying for federal employment with the U.S. Department of Defense. I would like to utilize my knowledge and leadership experience that I have obtained while serving in the U.S. Air Force and the same while attending college and to continuously move it forward.

Again, thank you for your generous support in my future endeavors.

Respectfully,



Matthew M. Stranz

