Cedric Bowie says that Cleveland Community College is the perfect place to start for anyone who is ready to commit to learning in an environment that is nurturing and success driven and it was definitely the place he needed to be when he decided to get his Associate in Arts degree. He says that during his time at CCC he wasn’t just a student and he knew his advisor and instructors cared about his success. “They had faith in me. Even when I was struggling with tough classes, they believed in me and gave guided me every step of the way,” Bowie adds.

Before coming back to school Bowie was working at a substitute teacher and dance instructor and said he had his sights set on getting his associates degree and then transferring to a four-year university. “I really wanted to set the stage for my college career by earning my associates degree and then moving on to pursue the rest of my education,” Bowie says. Along the way, he says encouragement from instructors kept him focused and pushing toward his goal. “Math has always been a struggle for me; but my instructor, Susan Jones, worked with me and actually made math interesting to me for the first time in my life,” he says. “With her help, and by taking advantage of tutoring offered in the Student Success Center, I was able to get the math credits I needed.”

Bowie was also able to work as a work-study in the Rose Library and says this experience was also one he will always be grateful for because the library staff became like a family to him and encouraged him and motivated him along the way. “Any student who shows they care and want to succeed at CCC can do so because everyone there is ready and willing to meet you halfway if you are willing to put in the work,” he says. “Apply yourself, ask questions, work hard, build good student/teacher relationships, and take advantage of all of your resources. If you do all of that nothing can stand in your way of success.”