



Shelita Rhone-Plaskett: Life Long Learning in the Liberal Arts

Shelita Rhone-Plaskett is a Chicago native with a serious commitment to education. Her sights are currently set on earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Lincoln College-Normal; looking towards her future, Shelita also has her eye on graduate school at Illinois State University. During her time at LCN, Shelita has come to view knowledge as something “intrinsically valuable.” She believes that her Lincoln College education has contributed to her personal well-being through its broad liberal

arts curriculum. This education has provided her with the many important skills and competencies of a soon-to-be college graduate, but, more significantly, Shelita feels that she has gained a “life-long personal awareness” which will help her continue to grow and ultimately lead her to a successful life.

A college student with a fulltime job as a corrections officer, Shelita’s greatest talent is disciplined time management. However, rather than being a student who is interested in only obvious and immediately valuable skills and lessons, Shelita believes that every aspect of education and learning is important. “Any course of study is like a time capsule because an individual can always reflect upon it,” she says. For Shelita, learning does not end with the semester but is a “life-long” process, and, therefore, every class is relevant. As a Lincoln College-Normal student, Shelita has “learned that education is so much more than simply sitting in a classroom lecture;” rather it is a never ending process that may begin in the classroom but does not end there.

At Lincoln College-Normal, Shelita has found courses taught by Interim Dean of Academic Affairs Jeff Kratz particularly rewarding. She credits him as the source of her conception of education as a process. A proponent of a humanities focused view of the world, Shelita found her experience in the course Values and Choices helped her to understand other people. She learned that “you must first gain some insight into the conditions that make people who they are” before you can begin to understand them. Shelita found that her enthusiasm for education was matched by that of her instructor: “Mr. Kratz takes a vested interest to ensure that students meet all of the learning objectives and that they actually have learning experiences. Mr. Kratz has had the greatest influence on my educational career,” she says.

Truly a believer that “education is life,” Shelita intends to continue her education at Illinois State University in 2010 after graduating from LCN. She plans to pursue a Master’s Degree in Liberal Arts so that she can continue to explore humanity: “I believe that becoming more aware of our cultural differences, as well as exploring our similarities, can help us communicate with each other more effectively.” As a graduate student, Shelita intends to explore culture and communication.

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