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GC Opened Doors For Devynn Brant, Her Experience At Bucknell University

community College Scholars Program, in addition to other transfer opportunities available at Garrett College, persons are invited to con-

tact Ashley Ruby, Academic Success advisor and transfer specialist, at 301-387-3733 or via email at ashley.ruby@garrettcollege.edu.



"So what are you doing after you graduate high school?" was the standard and most probing question being asked of Devynn Brant, a resident of Oakland and a 2010 graduate of Garrett College. Upon completing her senior year at Southern High School, she identified herself along with many other 17-year-old students and was unsure what her next move would be, or even what options were available to her at the time.

"I honestly believed I could not afford college," Brant said, but added that she heard about the Garrett County Scholarship Program and told herself that this was a step in the right direction.

"At the time I made my decision, I had no idea how many doors would be opened for me by attending Garrett College, or to be honest, how much I would enjoy college," she said.

behavioral sciences at GC and transferred to Bucknell, where she graduated two years later with a 3.3 GPA and with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology.

"At times, I stressed and struggled during regular semesters at Bucknell, but I could look at what I was going through and compare it to the summer program and say, 'I made it through that, so this is going to be a cake walk,' and I earned my four-year degree," she said.

Brant says she strongly recommends the Bucknell Community College Scholars Program to other students attending Garrett College, and says she is especially grateful that she was able to develop lasting friendships and connections through her summer program and her entire educational experience.

"The friendships and bonds you create as a scholar while completing the six-

Brant first became aware of the Bucknell University Community College Scholarship Program while sitting in SHS teacher Doug Oxford's class in high school. The Bucknell Community College Scholars Program is designed for high-achieving, low- to moderate-income community college students who aim to earn their associate degree and wish to take their education further. Garrett College is one of five community college partners in the program.

"I remember thinking that while the opportunity sounded wonderful, I did not feel confident that this scholarship opportunity could pan out for me," Brant said.

The primary purpose of the program is to be able to provide access to a higher (private) education to students who, under normal circumstances, may never be able to achieve it.

Strongly encouraged by her mother and friends, Brant applied for the summer program in the second semester while she was a student at Garrett.

"I cannot tell you how stunned I was when I found out I was selected for the interview process, or how nervous I was at the path that was placed before me," she said. "On the day I received my notice of acceptance for the summer program, I was completely thrown and elated!"

Reflecting back on her experience of the Bucknell summer program, Brant agrees that it was by far the most intense educational experience she has completed thus far in her life. Rigorous coursework, required meetings, and social events set the tone for a demanding program.

"Honestly, at times I felt like a survivor on a game show competing all the way to the last elimination round," she said. "Looking back, by participating in the summer program, I was far better equipped and prepared for the semesters ahead at Bucknell."

She earned her associate in arts degree in social/

week intense academic and social challenge of the program itself will stay with you for life," she said. "I know for myself that I can count on the people from my group to continue to be awesome, supportive individuals in my life."

After graduating from Bucknell, Brant found herself working as an administrative assistant at Hospice of Garrett County Inc. She quickly advanced in the workplace as a data quality assurance coordinator.

After working at Hospice, she became a behavioral health technician, managing four crisis clients per day at the Garrett County Lighthouse Inc. She is currently employed by Garrett County Community Action Committee Inc., where she manages the Maryland Access Point Program.

She has gained a variety of professional experience within just three years of graduating from Bucknell.

"Bucknell has been a great influence on my career and professional life in the world of social services," she said. "I have used my skills developed by the intensity of the summer program to manage the chaos that can be my daily experience at work, and that was all possible because I began my educational journey at Garrett College."

Garrett College will be holding informational sessions regarding the Bucknell Community College Scholars Program at the McHenry campus on Thursday, Nov. 12. Interested students will have the opportunity to visit the Bucknell University campus in February. After meeting the academic and financial criteria, potential scholars must apply and attend the summer program immediately prior to community college graduation. Students then return to the community college to complete the associate degree, and are eligible to apply for the Two-Year Transfer Scholarship to Bucknell.

For more information about the Bucknell Com-