

Rokia Gittens

Don't Quit Just Yet

When I first went away for college, I majored in biology because my mom wanted me to aspire to become a doctor. I never wanted to be a doctor but was trying to appease her. In my heart, I knew I truly wanted to be a nurse. One day I made the decision to do what I want because I know I won't be happy in a career that someone else chose for me.

When I decided to change my major into nursing, I spoke to the nursing advisor so she can help me set up my schedule for other prerequisites I needed. When she looked at my transcript and saw some of my grades were low, especially my science course grades, she told me I would never get into the school's nursing program or any other program nearby. She said the only way I will get into a nursing school is if I transferred to a private college. She even tried to make me switch into an occupational therapist major. I told her I didn't want to do that. I honestly didn't even know what an occupational therapist did.

I was teary-eyed because it really hurt when she said I would never get into the school's nursing program or one nearby. I could have given up and quit on my dream of becoming a nurse. But deep down inside I knew I didn't want to quit on something I really wanted. I truly believe there is no other career option for me other than becoming a nurse. I decided to take the lady's words with a grain of salt and applied to different nursing programs in New York State.

I came to Brockport because my friend informed me they had a nursing program. During my first semester here at Brockport when I received my midterm grades, I felt very discouraged. My grades were still low although I've been working so hard and did nothing but study. I did not even hang out with friends and mostly stayed in the library so I can get good grades and get into the nursing program. My heart was so heavy and I was so discouraged I felt I could have dropped out of school at that very moment. I thought what's the point of working so hard when I'm not getting anywhere? But deep down inside I still did not want to quit. I thought, what else would I do with my life? Deep down inside there was still a fire in me that didn't want me to quit and made me press on. I'm glad I didn't quit because I got into the nursing program.

I still work very hard in school, sacrificing many things to make sure my grades are high. Maybe that nursing advisor was right. Maybe I wouldn't have gotten into the school's nursing program or any other program in the area, but I got into SUNY's best nursing program. Many people thought I would never make it and were rooting for me to fail. Even people in my own family thought I would fail, they weren't looking forward to my success.

I believe in encouraging yourself because the only person who has your back at the end of the day is you. Don't look towards people to always encourage or motivate you because even family and close friends can turn their back on you. I had to motivate, encourage, and push myself to get where I am. I'm glad I didn't listen to the negative voices of my family or the

advisor lady or else I would not be on my way to pursuing my dream. I realized when I was doing badly; I did not have a lot of support. When I'm doing good, everyone wants to share in my success. It's alright because the best revenge a person can get is proving them wrong. I was accepted into the nursing program, inducted into several honor societies, still maintain a high GPA and I even got a nursing scholarship.

I believe in never giving up on what you really want. It might not be easy but sometimes the hardest paths in life give you the best results. When you go through hardships and tribulations, you realize it was worth it to get where you are. If you really want something, never give up and fight for what you want. You can do it, all you have to do is drown out all the negative voices that tell you you can't.