

Malcolm Andrew Johnson. A Detroit-born, North Carolina-raised scholar of Caribbean Ancestry. A little fish in a big pond of competition just trying to find his way as best he can. I am Malcolm, and this is my story. Growing up my Mom always tried her hardest to raise my brother and I, but as an immigrant from Guyana things were not easy when it came to getting her feet on the ground. My mom is my hero because of her perseverance and dedication to raising us. With that being said she can't do it all. Since she did not grow up around American culture she was unaware of school programs and opportunities. I was always a smart kid but I was limited to grade level education when I had the ability to do more. The prevalence of this stood out during my first year in middle school. I was taking a grade-level math class while all my friends were taking 7th-grade level math. This was because of a test that their parents signed them up for that allowed them to skip to the next level. This issue continued into high school where I continued to miss out on programs that I had no clue about. The main program that I missed out on was called Wake Early College. This is a high school program that allows you to complete high school in your first two years and finish with an associate's degree for the last two years. Missing out on opportunities was the story of my life.

I finally decided to make a change in my life and take control when I began writing my college essay my senior year. I began doing extensive research on colleges and programs. I used the expectations and qualifications for those programs to begin expanding my knowledge and stacking my resume. I told myself that I had to succeed so that I could take care of myself and my family. I also think about things generationally, I never want my children to miss out on opportunities to elevate themselves like I did. I have to be successful in building a platform for my future generations to push off of. I kept this mindset to this day and it has driven me to my

success and education today. Despite my past, I have been able to achieve a number of things. First and foremost I got into college but I was also able to establish a career path for myself. I am striving to be a Public Health Professional.

When it comes to why I believe I am a strong candidate for the UNCG McNair Program the first thing that comes to mind is my work ethic and drive. I am considered a workaholic by all my friends, family, peers, and supervisors. I pride myself on the quality of work that I do both inside and outside of the classroom. I am well-rounded with customer service experience, student relations, and student advocacy. I am a shift manager, a resident advisor, and a student conduct panelist. I am seeking higher graduate education because of how important it is to have that level of education in today's day and age. As an aspiring Public Health Professional, the more education that I can attain will support the betterment and progression of health for the human race. I also need this level of education to explain and prove the prevalence of hygiene and proper everyday practices like handwashing for example. Participating in the McNair program can help me to allocate uses for my skill sets, help prepare me for graduate school and testing, and help me to conduct research as well as build my resume. These are all skills and education that will help me to achieve my long-term goals and break my curse of missed opportunities. Lastly, the long-term mentors, friends, and peers that I can meet through this program will help me to really make a difference in this world which is such a beautiful thing to think about. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.