

My African American Roots, My American Dreams

By P. Reeves, 2016-2017

I am an African-American male. I am proud of my heritage. My great-grandparents on my father's side were the first to attend college in the family at Lane College in Jackson, TN. They both were very ambitious individuals. My great-grandfather was a self-employed land owner. My great-grandmother was a traveling teacher across three counties. On my Mother's side, my great-grandmother attended Alcorn State University as a non-traditional student and obtained a degree in elementary education in her forties. My great-grandfather did not complete public high school but learned a trade and worked a fulltime job and owned a side business.

My family has a strong legacy of entrepreneurship and a relentless work ethic. My father completed his degree in political science at Coahoma Community College and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. My mother has a bachelor's, masters and specialist degree in education and counseling. She attended University of Southern Mississippi, Tougaloo College, and Mississippi College. I have some larger than life shoes to fill. I am up for the challenge.

My future plans are to attend University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and major in Physical Education with an emphasis in Coaching. I want to pursue my degree and play football for the university team. My ultimate dream is to play for the NFL. I do realize that I need to plan ahead and have an alternative if the NFL does not materialize. I will pursue a career in Physical Education and Coaching which will allow me to be involved in sports. My role model is my father who attended college while playing football and was drafted by the San Diego Chargers. I believe if I work hard and stay focused on my goal, I can do anything I put my mind to.