

# GRASP News

August 2018

GRASP Alumnus, Xavia Gary - Armstrong High School, 2010 - JMU (B.S.), 2015 - VCU (M.Ed.), 2018



***What did you study?*** My JMU B.S. degree was in Sports and Recreation Management and a double minor in Business and Human Resource Development. My VCU M.Ed. degree was in Sports Leadership/Administration from the Center for Sports Leadership.

***What is the best thing GRASP has done for you?*** The best thing GRASP has done for me was providing me financial support in the form of a scholarship during my first year at James Madison University. Every bit helps, and GRASP played a vital role in my success of becoming the first in my family to graduate from a 4 year college or university.

**What are you doing now?** I just finished my 200 hour externship with Henrico County Recreation and Parks, serving as a Tournament and Site Assistant for different parks throughout the county. That was my last requirement to obtain my M.Ed. from VCU. I will continue to work part time with Henrico County Recreation and Parks while serving as the Director of Student Activities for Carver College and Career Academy in Chesterfield, VA.

**What one piece of "educational advice" would you give to high school students?** Whether you want to further your education at a 4 year college, university, community college, trade school, or enter the workforce after graduation, NEVER stop learning and NEVER stop growing!





**What is the biggest life challenge you faced relative to your educational path?** The biggest challenge I faced as it relates to my educational path was enduring the many hardships and overcoming obstacles to be successful. After my freshman year at James Madison, I had to work two jobs to help fund my college and living expenses, while also maintaining my academics as a full time student. I was determined to become the first in my family to graduate from college, and the challenges I faced throughout my college career molded me into the person I am today. After overcoming those challenges during my undergraduate years, I knew it was possible, so I decided to further my education and strive for my master's degree. As of today, I can say that I faced my challenges head on and came out successful with my Master's of Education from Virginia Commonwealth University.



## Expanding students' opportunities to learn

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GRASP is a Virginia 501(c)(3) nonprofit. GRASP seeks to give ALL students in Virginia the opportunity to build fulfilling lives through postsecondary educational pathways.

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