This upcoming May, Oluponle, “Ponle” will graduate with a degree in Biological Sciences, while on a Pre-medical track. Ponle acknowledges the Student Support Services Summer Program (S4P) for meeting many of his closest friends. Although he initially hesitated participating in S4P, as a senior, he now realizes the impact the summer program had on his undergraduate experience. Ponle is a member of Circle K, the world’s largest college service organization on campus. In addition, for the past three semesters, Ponle has volunteered at Lourdes Hospital to gain experience working with patients. As a TRIO Mentor, and a Professional Tutor for calculus and psychology courses, Ponle has supported students along their college journey. While at Binghamton, Ponle had an epiphany that helped motivate him to continue on his path to medical school. With the encouragement of friends, family and SSS staff, Ponle was able to overcome his issues while at Binghamton.

Ponle initially lacked the motivation to complete his major, and had difficulty dealing with rejection. Ponle was influenced to pursue a medical degree because his parents wanted him to have a stable career. Because Ponle had not wholeheartedly decided upon this, he was initially uninterested in his course work. This lead him to suffer academically, as he lacked the motivation to invest adequate time into learning. Rejection from leadership positions also initially discouraged Ponle from being active. Due to this, Ponle began to doubt his ability to be a leader.

What helped Ponle overcome these obstacles were his experiences, and perception of the situations he faced. By accepting the idea that situations happen for a reason, Ponle accepted not being able to participate in certain leadership roles. Ponle did not give up, and continually sought out other leadership experiences. It was through this experience that Ponle was able to seize opportunities, such as Student Advisor for Harpur College, SSS Mentor, and Professional Tutor. Ponle’s SSS adviser pushed him to get experience in a healthcare setting. The experience gained at the Dry Harbor Nursing Home helped Ponle determine that he wanted a career as doctor.

Currently, Ponle is set to obtain his masters in Basic Medical Sciences at New York Medical College. Afterwards, he plans on obtaining his doctorate degree to become a cardiologist.

Please congratulate Ponle for being selected as our 5th SSS Student Spotlight award winner. Congratulations, Ponle!