

## Samirah

### 2013

Samirah was accepted into Tabor's Supervised Independent Living (SIL) Program in January of this year and made a very smooth transition from foster care into SIL. When she came into our program at the age of 17, she was in the middle of her Senior year of High School, and was earning straight A's in all of her classes. She was able to juggle living on her own, attending SIL group meetings and meetings with her social worker, college applications, high school, as well as a part-time job and was able to earn straight A's for her entire Senior year. When applying for colleges, Samirah aimed high, and was not only accepted into La Salle University, but was also awarded scholarships and grants to cover her entire tuition for a four-year Bachelor's degree program!

Samirah was accepted into La Salle's Academic Discovery Program, which is a special admissions program which, "provides free support services for students whose records indicate that they could benefit from extra academic assistance and who also meet certain criteria of financial need." (La Salle University website). This program required that Samirah attend a rigorous Summer program in order to prove that she could handle this very high level academic environment, and she excelled, stating "I got 3 A's and 1 B this summer, I am excited that I am starting off well with a good GPA. My goal for the fall is to get all A's."

Samirah is studying Criminal Justice at La Salle University, and although she is not yet certain her exact career plans at this time, she does have a very strong dedication to her education and an exemplary work ethic. She has overcome many struggles, including losing her mother at a young age and living in group and foster homes, and has grown into a strong, intelligent young woman who has proven that she can excel against the odds. "I'm proud of myself, my DHS SW told me that I am the first client on her caseload that is going to a University. I have a lot of people cheering me on and I want to make sure I do well."

Samirah has the potential to remain in Tabor's SIL program until she is 21, so that gives her three more years in which to dedicate to her education and learning life skills with the support of her social worker before she emancipates from the system and has to do it alone. She is grateful for the continued support of the Department of Human Services, as well as Tabor Children's Services, and knows that without the support of Tabor's SIL program, she would not have the privacy and assistance that she needs in order to focus on her studies in order to continue to do well.

### 2015

We are proud to announce that Samirah is turning 21 in July 2015 and will be graduating from LaSalle University in May with a degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology! We are excited to also announce that Samirah will be a SIL youth guest speaker at our SIL open house on Tuesday, June 23, 2015. To attend this open house event please contact [amanda.hoffman@tabor.org](mailto:amanda.hoffman@tabor.org).