



My name is Keji Kujjo and I was born and raised in North Sudan, North Africa. Learning there was very different from here. When my family moved to Milwaukee, WI, to accompany my father, I was then enrolled in Washington High School of IT. Knowing no English whatsoever made learning for me a challenge. Fortunately, I didn't have to face this challenge all alone. I had a team of supportive teachers who helped me and made it possible. In addition, Washington High School had after school tutoring programs which I took advantage of to help me with my school work.

My teachers gave me books to read at my leisure, they told me about reading and writing contests, they encouraged me to take AP classes to help prepare me for college. They had so much faith in me and believed in my ability to succeed in life. For example, I had a fear of public speaking and several of English teachers helped me with that. I would read an article in an empty classroom and before I knew it I'd see more and more students and teachers in the room who were giving me their undivided attention. I had a supportive audience that gave me comfort which later helped me with delivering my Valedictorian speech.

I am now a college sophomore at UWM with a double major in ESL Education and Political Science. College is not "easy" but I'm glad that my school education prepared me for it. I continue to take advantage of whatever tutoring service is offered on campus and I try to develop a good relationship with my professors and ask for their help whenever I need it. Because of my involvement in high school and love for helping people, I am now a UWM Campus Ambassador so I will be working with new UWM students (some of whom are Washington Alumni) and helping them succeed and enjoy their first year of college.

I am really grateful to be a recipient of the Washington HS Alumni Scholarship. In addition to myself, my father and three of my siblings are all in college so; my family alone can't afford to pay for our college education. I use the WHS scholarship to pay for my books and tuition since I depend on financial aid, grants, and scholarships to pay for my schooling to achieve my life goals.

Note from Steven Brown: " By the way, she earned a 3.7 gpa her first year in college (having just learned English 6 years ago)!!!"