

MBSP Scholar Success Award Series

This spring we initiated a recognition series to highlight unique successes and to champion the vibrant and dynamic individuals that exemplify the leadership and determination of our MBSP scholars.

The Multicultural Scholars Business Program (MBSP) celebrates all of the MBSP scholars. There is one in particular who deserves recognition through his work on campus. His name is Stephonn Alcorn. Stephonn was raised in Gardner, Kansas. He is a Finance major currently of junior standing. He has participated in several organizations while at KU. Organizations such as Finance Scholars, IFC, and the Greek Task Force. He has also interned at Merrill Lynch.

Stephonn embodies a young man motivated by his family, the amazing and educational experiences obtained through the KU business school, and his resilient nature. Stephonn said, "I grew up in a household where my parents were always working. My parents preached the importance of education and hard-work."

Stephonn has had quite a beginning to his semester. He has begun a campaign run for Student Body President under the coalition One KU. To Stephonn, Student Senate has the power to provide positivity to students. He believes that his duty if elected is to inspire others to value embracing perspectives and he seeks to unify ideas so that students can journey in the right direction, together as a student body.

He plans to bridge the divides between communities. "I believe that representation is not enough." Stephonn hopes to lead One KU and Student Senate to a position which allows them to benefit student's lives more efficiently and effectively. A man who is learning to embrace humility, he states: "The campaign is about students, not student senate. It's about managing to gather the ideas from our amazing student body and collective groups on campus to accomplishing positive things."

Those positive things consist of providing a stable foundation for minority representation within the Student Senate and KU community. He firmly seeks to head in a direction that will unify the different communities so that the campus feels inclusive for every student. Other goals such as funding groups and rebuilding the trust students have in the Student Senate are also on his presidential agenda. Stephonn passionately illustrated his desire to focus on the need to have a student body president committed to enacting policies, finding resources, and building up programs that would truly do the above stated ideals. I asked Stephonn what he wished he could accomplish most as president and he said "I want to be a president that will be open-minded and persistent enough to accomplish walking the walk."

By Kwasi Porter-Hill