

SPOTLIGHT on the Corridor

Issue 12 September 2016

By Demetrius O. Williams
OC Communication Consultant

A Journey to Acquire Wisdom

“You can be born with knowledge, but wisdom comes with time,” an inspirational quote from Mr. Jeffery Banks that depicts his thought process throughout life. A gentleman raised on the east side of Cleveland, Mr. Banks’ life journey showed that he was knowledgeable at a young age but as time progressed he obtained wisdom. “I never gave up, I stayed consistent,” is what Mr. Banks said as he reflected on how he arrived to this point in his life of now driving 18-Wheel Semi-trailer trucks throughout the country. He never thought this opportunity would be possible.

Mr. Banks’ voyage of acquiring wisdom started in Cleveland, Ohio where he attended Glenville High School. But prior to graduation he made a difficult decision to enroll in the Marine Corps. Although this was not the traditional route, Mr. Banks knew this was a decision he had to make. In the Marine Corps., Mr. Banks’ journey of acquiring wisdom continued as he traveled around the world to Japan, Korea and much more. This experience exposed Mr. Banks to unlimited possibilities.

After 3 plus years of serving his country in the military, Mr. Banks returned home to Cleveland. Although he was a skilled military veteran, he had trouble finding employment. This ultimately led to Mr. Banks deciding to move to Florida for more opportunities. This is where Mr. Banks was originally exposed to the truck driving industry. Over the next few years, Mr. Banks worked for several different companies in Florida as well as in his hometown of Cleveland. Unfortunately, nothing quite worked out as planned.

Acquiring wisdom is not only gained from positive experiences in a person’s life. Mr. Banks had to regrettably learn from a negative occurrence. As a result of this negative situation, Mr. Banks was incarcerated for 11 years. Even though this was far from an ideal situation, Mr. Banks took this time to better himself. He became determined to increase

his wisdom through reading as many books as possible. He knew that when he was released he had to have a plan, and he had to stick to it.



Jeffery Banks

Soon after Mr. Banks was released in 2015, he heard about an opportunity to receive job assistance from the Opportunity Corridor Project and Ohio Means Jobs. Initially being reluctant about the validity of the program, Mr. Banks decided it was time to use some of the wisdom he acquired and take a chance. “I decided to trust the staff of Ohio Means Jobs,” said Mr. Banks. It didn’t take long for Mr. Banks to sign up and go through the orientation process. He was determined and focused. Soon

thereafter, with funding from the Opportunity Corridor Project, Mr. Banks was able to enroll in the Great Lakes truck driving school and ultimately receive his commercial driver’s license, which subsequently led to a paid on the job training opportunity.

Mr. Banks’ life journey consisted of many triumphs and tribulations, which played a significant role in his ability to grow and acquire wisdom. His life is a living testament to the quote, “You can be born with knowledge, but wisdom comes with time.” After all he has been through in his life; he is finally living the dream. Mr. Banks is currently in the process of planning the next chapter in his journey of acquiring wisdom. He recently accepted a full time position to drive trucks across the country, and he is excited to start.

With the help of the Opportunity Corridor Project, Ohio Means Jobs wants to give every resident the opportunity to utilize their wisdom and improve upon their life just like Jeffery Banks.

For more stories like this one and to find out additional information about the Opportunity Corridor go to <http://opportunitycorridor.transportation.ohio.gov/>.

