

From the System to Center Stage

Samuel Isiac McAllister III formally was in foster care and received support from the Mentoring and Oversight for Developing Independence with Foster Youth (MODIFY) program at the CED

"I obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance degree from Glenville State University. I attended from fall 2022- spring 2025. I even graduated cum laude.

My next steps are to pursue a master's degree in instrumental and vocal performance whilst playing as much music as I can on the side. I hope to one day be a respected musician that people from all walks of life can draw inspiration from.

I dream of living in a world where one day love is spread and music is sang all around. I dream of a world where kindness and music are the only form of currency needed. I dream of a place where anyone can feel like someone. I dream that people will check on their loved ones and friends as often as they can. I dream of a land of peace, prosperity, and perseverance, and know that one day we will all realize how blessed we really are to even have the chance to give life a go.

If I could give one piece of advice to the younger generation, it would be: Never settle, always be curious and never be afraid to ask a question. Don't take your loved ones and time for granted. Never be afraid to stand out. Never be afraid to ask for help or admit failure. Never be afraid to dance, sing, or speak up for yourself. Don't be mean to people, even if you're having a bad day. At the end of the day, that one experience could alter that person's path forever. One single ounce of kindness does more than an ocean of hate and negativity. I'll leave you with a quote I heard online awhile back. "If I were to give you a million dollars would you take it?" The mysterious man asked. The other fellow responded and said, "yes of course!" The mysterious man then says, "so be it, I'll give you a million dollars, but there is one catch. You will not wake up tomorrow. Today will be your last day on earth! Do you still want the money?" "Goodness gracious NO!" Uttered the other fellow.

Moral of this story is that your life and existence is worth way more than a million dollars."

