

Meet DiorJonea'



DiorJonea' didn't want to leave the state she called home, her friends, her basketball and track teammates or her high school, but she and her mom were moving to Colorado to be near her sister. She started going to an early college tech school, but there was no structure and she started falling behind. She dropped out of school. She planned to go back eventually, but didn't know how to find the right school.

A few months later, Rachael, a CYC Educational Outreach Specialist, called her and asked if she wanted to go back to school. At first she wasn't going to even call Rachael back, but her mom pushed her to call her. She finally did and they set up a time to meet. She was so nervous to meet with Rachael. She really wanted to graduate this school year, but wasn't she sure if it was possible. The meeting wasn't that bad and Rachael gave her a few different school options to think about. When she heard about DC-21, it seemed like it could be a good fit.

They were lucky enough to be able to visit the school that day and as soon as DiorJonea' walked through the doors she liked it. She enrolled that day.

Since working with Rachael and attending [DC-21](#), DiorJonea' has excelled in school. She says "every day I walk into the building and (the Principal), Mr. Simmons, tells me I am a queen and a scholar." This kind of support means the world to DiorJonea'. Last quarter she made honor roll and is on track to make it again. She beams with pride as we look over her grades. She has all As and she will graduate with her high school diploma in January. She will be the first in her family to graduate from high school. Her family has played a big part in her motivation. Although two of her brothers are incarcerated, she says they push her the hardest. They are always checking in to see how she's doing in school and they make her send pictures of her grades.

Both Rachael and her DiorJonea's counselor at DC-21 say they have seen her attitude change a lot too. If she has a question or needs help, she will reach out to her teachers and the other staff.

DiorJonea's goal is to move back to Texas and go to college and become a nurse. There is no doubt that she will reach these goals.