

## Autobiography

By Sample Student

I was born in Cleveland, Ohio on Halloween of 1968. I still live in the suburbs of Cleveland, in Aurora, Ohio. I am currently attending the University of Phoenix in an effort to obtain my bachelors degree in Business Management. I live with my wife Karen and 3 children, Danny age 12, Kelly age 19, and David age 22. Kelly has started her first year of college with Mount Union University and David is finishing up his associate's degree in marketing at Cuyahoga Community College. My wife and I have been happily married for almost 20 years now. My wife has worked for the YMCA for almost 20 years and is currently their office manager. My wife and my children are the most important part of my life as well as my successes. It is the influence that I have on my children as well as my personal goals that have driven me to want to excel in all I do and try to be a good role model for my children along with others I come into contact with as well. My life so far is comprised of a wonderful family, great friends, a small successful classic car restoration business and a sincere dedication to my family, education and work.

### **My Life**

My name is Sample Student and I grew up in the Greater Cleveland Ohio area. At the age of 15 I began to realize the importance of an education and by the time I was 19 had enrolled in night school and then transferred to Cuyahoga Community College to begin studying business. I found out quickly that a minimum wage job was not going to get me through college creating a need to fund my educational pursuits. In 1990 I joined the Army as part of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division to gain valuable training but also to fund my

education. In my 3 years in the military I was never able to attend college due to frequent deployments. After being honorably discharged in 1993 I continued to pursue my education in business management through Cuyahoga Community College. I met my wife in college shortly after my discharge from the military in 1993. I fell in love and started a family. Due to the responsibilities I now had as a father I had to work to provide for my family and had to put school off and gain employment. In 1994 I started a construction company with my brother Dan called Construction Inc. The company was successful until a falling out between my brother and myself. The business was closed and I walked away with new experience and the need for employment. In 1996 I began working for the YMCA of Greater Cleveland in maintenance. Over my tenure of 6 years with the organization I was promoted many times and ended up with the responsibility of 13 YMCA's and a title of "maintenance supervisor and special projects coordinator".

Through this time I enrolled and graduated from The West Side Institute of Technology with honors in the environmental systems program. Promptly after graduating I enrolled with the University of Phoenix and began studying business management once again. I had to take many breaks over the 7 years I have been attending UOP but I am now on the verge of completing their bachelors program. In 2002 I was offered my first true management position with the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Health as Director of Facilities and Safety Services. I thrived in the position ending up with several achievement and leadership awards. Now having the experience of working in larger organizations, I began to look for businesses in which I could use my management experience to build my skills as a manager and start my career. In 2005 I resigned with the county and accepted a position with my current employer as Director of Development

for Compliance Services of America LLC. CSA manufactures and distributes the “All In One” compliance posters and services the needs of businesses in compliance and ethics education and training. My responsibilities within the company are to update current educational and training programs and work together as a team to develop more effective programs. My wife and children have been very supportive of my efforts through the years. Through my families involvement with my educational pursuits the experience has shown my children the importance of an education. They have seen through me how hard it is to work and go to school. I believe this has given my children greater drive to complete their degrees right out of school before the responsibilities of life creep in. I am also an avid classic car collector and restoration specialist. Ever since I was young I had a fascination with muscle and classic era cars. I began restoring them at the age of 15 and have continued to this day. I have made enough money at restoring these old cars to be able to afford a shop located in Bedford, Ohio. I have a part time apprentice I took on to teach the trade to from a local vocational school, he also loves restoring classic cars as this gives him a chance to hone the skills he has learned in vocational school. I currently have 3 cars, a 1969 Pontiac Firebird convertible, a 1963 Ford Galaxie 500 fastback and a 1967 Chevy Camaro Z28. I am currently restoring a 1955 Chevy Belair for a friend of mine and this will be the oldest restoration I have done to date. All of these cars I have personally restored along with many others that I have sold over the years. It gives me a great feeling of pride to see someone taking a second glance at one of my cars driving by. Many of the cars I have sold have helped in paying for my education, vacations, and even an addition to my home. I cannot see myself ever giving

up this hobby of mine as it provides a way for me to show my creative and innovative side.

### **My Outlook**

By the year 2011 I hope to be in upper management with my current employer and looking higher. My youngest son Danny will be close to graduating high school, my daughter Kelly should be graduated with her degree in communications and my son Allen should have his bachelors in marketing. The outlook for my future is a good one due to my family and education. I can see myself becoming more versed in compliance services and in the future possibly starting a related company. I see my future as being a top quality manager in a position of importance involving critical decision-making that drives a company to competition and wins. I can also see in the future where I will be taking time to reward my family for their support and accomplishments, possibly in the form a long vacation in the Cayman Islands. I can also see in my future where my wife and myself will be able to continue to pass on our experiences to both our children and grandchildren helping them to become better people and helping them to achieve their goals. I believe that my future holds only what I put into it. To this point in my life I have worked hard to achieve my educational goals from graduating high school to shortly obtaining my degree in Business management through the University of Phoenix as well as my responsibilities as a father to ensure my families and my future is secure. I can see where both my experiences from a specialist in the army to being the director of development for CSA have made me a capable well rounded manager giving me the ability to be successful in any future environment I find myself in or endeavor I may pursue.

## **Conclusion**

As I stated in the beginning, I have always placed a great importance on education and have had a drive to learn more and excel in life. I would like to see my family continue their educational interests no matter what they are. I would hope that through all of my experiences in my personal as well as professional life that this will provide the foundation on which my family can succeed and as a professional to help the company I work for to succeed as well. I feel a great need to practice what I preach and in telling my children that education is vital to their success, my actions have spoken louder than any words I could have said to them. In my profession this is true as well, in being responsible for developing education and training in compliance of an adult based demographic, I have found it is essential that we practice what we preach as our level of education in the field directly relates to the success of our programs. The diversified experiences in my life and the level of education I currently obtain have afforded me opportunities that would have been passed by. It is because of my wife and family and their support I have been able to chase after and accomplish dreams and goals that without them would not be worth pursuing. Because of my experiences I am better suited to provide for my family both monetarily and educationally. I hope you have enjoyed my autobiography, I think you can see that my life has been based on hard work, education, and responsibility. It is these principles that I believe can have the greatest effect on anyone's successes.