SPOTLIGHT: JOSHUA BROWN
Josh - our first staff spotlight - works as Project Coordinator in KSU’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness. He attended both Georgia Tech and Kennesaw State. While at KSU, he helped create and serve as President for both the First-Gen Owls (FGO) and Student Philanthropy Council (SPC) student organizations.

ON GOING TO COLLEGE

“Essentially, I chose to go to college because I saw it as one of the only real options I had to get into the world and actually try to make something of myself. I always wanted to go to college growing up, and so when the opportunities came about to go and I was able to find a way to support doing so financially, I knew I had take advantage and see what it was like.”

LESSONS LEARNED

“I wish I knew that it was okay to reach out to help. I was usually accustomed to just doing everything myself. So I got used to doing so financially, but I think that there were plenty of other options for people to talk to and to help me figure out what resources were out there for me.”

EXPERIENCES

What have been some of your most memorable moments?

“Funny enough my most memorable experience was definitely failing out of Tech the first time. It was the end of my sophomore year and I was getting overwhelmed with not knowing how to do things and not doing them as well as I would have liked or was used to. Also, I had so much on my plate: I was taking 15+ credit hours those first few semesters, working 40 hours a week at two part-time jobs and side opportunities, then putting in about hours upon hours for extracurriculars that were more meaningful to me. And then you’re right in the middle of Atlanta so you wanna have fun as well, which didn’t help. Essentially, going to class didn’t make me feel motivated, and this came from being overwhelmed by how much I didn’t know anything, so I would skip class to sleep or work or do other things that actually seemed valuable to me. That, of course, didn’t last forever, but getting that dismissal notice was a good wake-up call that forced me to at least take the initial steps to evaluate what was truly important to me. The process definitely didn’t cure everything, but it made me realize how many people are out there to help and that I didn’t actually have to go through it all alone.”

ADVICE

“What have been some of your most memorable experiences? The process definitely didn’t cure everything, but it made me realize how many people are out there to help and that I didn’t actually have to go through it all alone.”

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

“‘Join something!’ Develop yourself personally and professionally by getting involved and learning more about both organizations around campus and professional development resources. Don’t wait until your degree program finally teaches you about these things — if at all — to take the initiative and give yourself an edge. And give back to whatever community you’re a part of! Whether you realize it or not, we’re really not in this alone, and whether it’s time or money, every little bit you invest into your community multiplies down the line and makes our experience that much better. Join SPC or help out in whatever way you can!”

Financial Aid FAQ

KSU Resource Guide

This is part of the Spotlight series created by the First-Gen Planning Committee.

If you are a first-generation student, faculty member, staff member, or alumni interested in being interviewed, please contact Jayne Chukwudozima, Graduate Assistant for Cultural & Community Centers, at jchukwu1@students.kennesaw.edu.

FIRST-GEN INITIATIVES AT KSU

Stonewall Resource Guide

OwlLife

Join FGO

Join SPC