

Sharon Olubajo

The best piece of advice I have received is that sometimes failure and rejection is a far greater prize than winning and acceptance. Throughout my young adult years, I have faced my fair share of trials and tribulations that have made me want to give up or pity myself. Rejection and failure are the hardest pills to swallow especially when you put all your heart in soul into something and it does not work in your favor. I remember when I was a senior in high school applying for colleges, I was well rounded and an overall high achiever, however I soon noticed that I did not have the same opportunities my fellow classmates had because of my status. I was not able to receive any federal scholarships even though I worked really hard and deserved them. But this did not stop me the rejection only motivated me, and I was able to go to a good University even though my family was and still are struggling to provide for it. When I got to college, I thought I would finally be at a place that would welcome me with open arms however this was not the case. I soon realized I was not as special as I thought I was, and I didn't stand out because everyone there was chasing the same goals that I had laid out for myself as well. It became noticeably clear that rejection was a normalcy for me. Any interview I got for a job opportunity or a position at the school was always denied to me and in the end my self confidence and security in myself plummeted as well. It was not till I started focusing less on the next big milestone and more on myself and doing what made me happy that I realized those failures and rejections were not that. It was not a loss but a chance to grow and attain more wisdom and patience. Sometimes when we are on a constant path of success you tend to forget to self-reflect and grow as a person. Failure in a way enable that to happen. It gives you time to improve and learn to become a better more polished version of yourself. Those bumps in the road direct you to your success just as much even better than a straight road. I was able to take the loss and use it as fuel to improve myself and my overall work ethic. I became more determined, self sufficient and wiser than I was before. Soon enough I was able to pass my first year of college with a 3.9 and a spot on the Deans List.