All success must start with a single step. The SUCCEED program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is becoming the first step to success and independence for many students in the St. Louis area and beyond.

The SUCCEED program affords students with a myriad of supports in order to help students gain not only independence, but self-confidence in their abilities. SUCCEED graduate Jarret Banks is one such individual that has chosen to start his journey into adulthood through the SUCCEED program.

Banks first applied for the program hoping to gain the “college experience.” He and his family recognized he needed stronger independence skills and more practice in responsibility. Through SUCCEED’s academics, vocational experiences, and campus life, Banks has been able to make great strides in both. With this new sense of independence, Banks became very involved within the UMSL community enriching his personal network and social experiences. Banks was an active member of the Revolution Campus Ministry and an employee with campus Instructional Support and Residential Life.

Banks’ favorite component of the SUCCEED program has been campus life. Banks had a great experience living and working on campus and built many lasting relationships as a result. Banks reflects, “UMSL wouldn’t be the same for me had I not lived on campus.” The campus residency requirement truly added to the enjoyment of the program for Banks and is one of the many factors that makes SUCCEED unique amongst similar programs.

While Banks found great delight in living on campus, some of his memories are the times he and his friends would adventure off campus. Banks’ favorite memories from his time at UMSL are when he and his friends would utilize the metro link to explore various city staples such as Delmar Loop, St. Louis Galleria, and the City Museum.

Banks’ proudest moment while at SUCCEED was having the opportunity to walk at commencement and receive his Chancellor’s Certificate. Banks admits, “Before the program I had a track record of not finishing things through to the end. I was very proud of myself for completing the program and doing well in it also.”
While Banks’ time at UMSL has been an incredibly positive and memorable experience, his post-secondary experience is far from over. Banks was accepted into Ranken Technical College. He hopes to eventually have a career in technology and expects the his time at Ranken will help him explore various career paths as he narrows down his area of study. Banks looks forward to the many experiences to come and credits SUCCEED for many of his educational successes.