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Black Cultural Center Oral History Collection

Transcript of Interview with Damon Prince

Interviewer: Joshua Egwuatu

Interview Date: January 12, 2021

Audio item ID: BCCOH_Prince_20210112

Time **Transcript**

(h:min:sec)

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Joshua Egwuatu: Hello, hello. What's up, Mr. Prince.

Damon Prince: What's going on.

Egwuatu: Doing well.

Prince: Can you hear me?

Egwuatu: Yes, sir. Can you hear me?

Prince: Okay, okay. Yeah yeah. How you doing?

Egwuatu: I'm doing well how about yourself?

Prince: Uh trying to get settled in. I had a uh I had a late uh late meeting.

Egwuatu: Okay.

Prince: A late meeting and then picking up kids and trying to get dinner for them and everything, so.

Egwuatu: Okay, I got you. Pretty busy man right here.

Prince: I try to stay busy. I try to stay busy, you know. I have eight kids they gotta eat so.

Egwuatu: Eight?

Prince: Yeah we we've got eight total. So, you know, we just had the new one and then—

Egwuatu: Yeah, I heard about that.

Prince: You've met Dalen—

Egwuatu: Yes.

Prince: But we've got, we've got eight total. They start from age 24 all the way down to two months so.

Egwuatu: That is crazy. Now, that's a large family, though that's pretty nice.

Prince: A lot of kids. It's a lot of kids.

Egwuatu: Definitely, definitely. Well, today the reason why I wanted to pull you in was to talk about the Black Cultural Center and the oral history project that we have going on right now. So, you already know my name, but I'm just going to list it off fully. So, I'm Joshua Egwuatu and today I'm going to be your interviewer about this project. So, first off you just give me a little bit of the background info: the full name, the city, how you grew up, that sort of thing.

Prince: Yeah, sure. So, you know it's the name, my name is Damon Prince, but funny enough that when I first got to Cookeville we had a mixer that was in the Black Cultural Center.

Egwuatu: Okay.

Prince: And I was I was telling everybody that my name was Damon and people were calling me Damien. And I'm like "Damon." "I can't hear you." So, I was like "it's just D, just call me D." So, they were you know people would say, "well what's your last name?" "Prince." And so, and down in the south everybody puts your first and your last name together. So I became D-Prince. And but I'm originally from Brooklyn, New York. I'm a military kid. My mother who's South American and my father who is from Franklin, Tennessee, they met while my father was in the Air Force and he was stationed in London. And you know he got out of the Air Force, moved to Brooklyn, New York with my mom and, you know, my brother, my sister. At that we were all together. I was born and then we, we've traveled around various places. We've lived in Italy, California, Oklahoma, assignments there. I had an uncle that went to school here. He was actually one of the, um, his name was Corey Prince. He is one of the members I guess or the group of people that put a petition together to have a Black Cultural Center. So yeah, my, my uncle, my uncle Corey is kind of the originator--one of the originators of the Black Cultural Center. So, it's just kind of it's kind of wild that, you know, I wanted to follow in his footsteps. And that I would be--it's just funny to be kind of interviewed today about this, with something that he actually helped start, so. I graduated high school in Oklahoma. That was our assignment, to Oklahoma, and I graduated from there. And then once I, I left there it was either West Virginia—

Egwuatu: Okay.

Prince: --University up in Morgantown, or it was Tennessee Tech. And I went on a recruiting visit to Tennessee Tech because I was an athlete. I was a dual sport athlete. And when I, when I got to Tennessee Tech they rolled out the red carpet. Little known fact, but Tennessee Tech used to be a party school, like right up there with all the others.

Egwuatu: That's, that's honestly shocking to me. Just hearing that, it's just blowing my mind.

Prince: Trust me, trust me. Tennessee Tech was a party school. I was probably the last of the Mohicans when it comes to being a party school, because it took me, it took me 10 years to get a four-year degree, so. Yeah, it was--Tennessee Tech was--really rolled out the red carpet for me. It was an easy decision. And so I made Cookeville my home in 1992 as a freshman. I've been to Knoxville, Atlanta, Nashville. I even moved back to Oklahoma for a little while. But nothing beat, beat being a part of this, this Tennessee Tech, Cookeville environment. So, I made up my mind that I was gonna come back and I was gonna stay and I've been here ever since, so.

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Egwuatu: Man that is great you sound like you've had a long roller coaster of a story. Like, especially, like starting from like the childhood. How was school like before college because you said you were moving all over the place so I know that was definitely, like, crazy and, like, ridiculous and stuff, like, that.

Prince: Yeah, so, I mean to be honest with you, the military experience was great for me because I, I like change. I like, I like change. I, I get, I get bored. I think about when I was young, I think maybe third, fourth, fifth grade something like that around that time, but I was asked what I wanted to be when I grow up. And you know everybody was saying doctor, lawyer, astronaut, pro-athlete. And I said I want to be everything and I mean that sticks because I like to experience new things. I'm not the type of guy, you know, if you say "hey, let's, let's go and do this" and I've made up my mind about it, if I say you know "hey, let's bungee jump" and I'm like "look that's not for me," I ain't going. But, you know, if it's something that I've never done before and I'm kind of open-minded to it, then I'm, I'm diving in. So, going to school, you know, my elementary school time was spent mostly in California. And then middle school was in, middle school was Italy. And then, you know, my junior and senior year was in Oklahoma. So, going from those two landscapes and that those two different ways of life and then coming to Cookeville, you know, as a freshman. Interesting thing--of course, I hung out with all the athletes. I was an athlete--I was an ineligible athlete at the time my freshman year--but hanging out with all the athletes, you know, there were guys from this area or close by. We would drive to Walmart and they would, you know, they would get out the car with their cars still running. Be like "let's go in and grab this real quick," you know, "it'll only take like 10-15 minutes." I'm like "y'all leaving y'all cars running? In Cookeville?" You know, I had, I had a friend from Memphis. He used to put the little--what is it--the club, he used to put the club on there.

Egwuatu: My dad has one of those and he still does that—

Prince: Yeah!

Egwuatu: —every now and again.

Prince: Yeah, he didn't play. My dude's from Memphis, man, my friend Mike Collins. He was such a good guy. He was like one of my best friends at the time. But yeah he, he would put the club on there. But some of the other guys, they would you know, get out, leave the car running, go in, you know, have a drink, and come out and car's still running, still in the same place. I was like “man, y'all can't get away with that anywhere but Cookeville.”

Egwuatu: So, that's great to hear definitely when you talked about the club you on bringing me back to some memories. Like, I, my dad I guess like around the time I was in like elementary school, middle school, he'd always have the club. So anywhere we go like I'd grab it for him and then like he'll put it on, put the key on, lock it.

Prince: Yeah, yeah, you know exactly what I'm talking about.

Egwuatu: Yes.

Prince: You know the experts, the, the experts with the club. They could do it in probably under 30 seconds, you know.

Egwuatu: Oh yeah.

Prince: Out, latched, let's go. So.

Egwuatu: Yes, sir.

Prince: Yeah, yeah man, yeah.

Egwuatu: Now, that's good. So, being that athlete--you said dual athlete, too—so, did you play both sports while at Tech?

Prince: So, yeah, I came in with partials--under partial scholarships--under football. Well, we, we had talked about it—so, I talked to the coaching staff about a basketball scholarship and a football scholarship, and that's where the direction we were going to go. So, it was almost like I was redshirted. So, you know, before we actually started in with, with practices and things there was uh something called Proposition 48 which means that you don't have the proper high school requirements. So, I found that out. You know I had been here since, you know, July or June or July ready to go to practice and ready to participate in football because football was, was doing summer camps at that time. And you know I, they pulled

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me in and said--Coach Ragland, who is deceased now God rest his soul, he's such a good guy, Coach Ragland pulled me to the side and said you know "Prince, I that they got this stuff going on and there's stuff that that you have to have." And, you know, just kind of gave me the speech and let me know that I was ineligible. So, you know, I wasn't going to be able to play my freshman year. And you know my-- by my sophomore year I had pretty much given up on sports. I was disappointed. I was young, I was a hot head, and so my thinking was you know "they did this to me on purpose." Of course, I said "it's because I was Black and they did this to me on purpose. They just don't want me to excel. They don't want me to succeed." When in actuality, it was me. I should have taken advantage of, you know, the classes that were offered to me instead of you taking two and three study halls. I think at one point in time I had, you know, my junior year, I had like English, history, geometry and or geometry two and then Oklahoma history, and then we went to lunch. And then afterwards, I had like three study halls back to back to back. And it was just you know that, that's, that's, that's that that's the problem with a lot of athletes that we have now. You know, they don't have those proper high school requirements. And so it, it, it stings them and it stays with them. So, you know, I'm definitely one of those ones that that kind of had that. But, you know, I look back now and older, wiser it was definitely my own doing. So, I was the, you know, I sabotaged myself.

Egwuatu: Okay man that's crazy. I definitely hear this story over and over again. I have friends that have gone through this sort of thing. And it's just crazy to me.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: I was never a good enough athlete to play any type of D1 sports but definitely knowing people that are like this I'm just like wow. Because I know the amount of work that playing the D1 sport takes is—

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: Almost like--you don't want to like neglect your schoolwork, but it's just like that is a full-time job right there.

Prince: It is.

Egwuatu: So, definitely just trying to balance that. And like from what you were saying that like once you got to the point that you didn't see yourself doing that it was just all, all thrown away right there. So, that's yeah that's crazy.

Prince: Well, I was heavily, I was heavily into music as well at the same time.

Egwuatu: Okay.

Prince: When I say, let me show you—

[Prince stands up to show off the Wu-Tang Clan tshirt he is wearing]

Prince: —Wu-Tang! Yeah.

Egwuatu: Yes, sir!

Prince: Got the Wu-Tang shirt on! But no, I was heavily into music at the time and so what I did was I kind of transitioned into making music. There were a few other people on campus that were you know just tinkered with music, with beats and things. And I was an articulate kid. I had always been an articulate kid. And some of my, my, my idols, my mentor—not mentors because they weren't really, they were kind of peers, but. You know, Big Daddy Kane and Rock Em, some of the old school rappers, but I would listen to them repeatedly. And then as people started to come out my, my age—like Nas was more my age—I started to listen and just say you know, “I could do that.” So, you know I went into, I went into music heavily and did you know did three albums over the course of 20, 20 years I think. Is that right? No, over the course of, over the course of about 12 years I did three albums and got some local success and distribution deals. And I learned the business from my aunt who's deceased Yvonne McKenzie. I learned the business from her because she was in Atlanta. Had opportunities to go down there and just kind of study that. So, I kind of used being a student—and it should have been the other way around, being a student and how committed you have to be to your academics to get good grades and graduate with honors—I kind of use that work ethic in music. Now, I was in school at the time. I should have been, I should have been using that work ethic towards getting my degree and then you know going to Atlanta and doing things. But, God has your, has your plan set out for you. And you know I just, I took the blessings that, that were in front of me and some I neglected but uh in the end I've, I've had a good life. I've had a real good life.

Egwuatu: Man, that's great to hear. How did, how are you able to make all these connections from like the start of college to get you in all like these different pathways you ended up doing during the course of your 10 year, 10 year career? That's, that's crazy right there.

Prince: So, one of the biggest things was you know I had, I have my, my aunt that I mentioned Yvonne McKenzie. She was a backup singer for Stevie Wonder, I think Donna Summer, and some other people. And then she worked, she worked for an entertainment law firm in Atlanta. So she would always hook me up with people. And best story that I have is she hooked me up with a guy named Gene Griffin. Now, you probably have to ask your parents about this but there was a group called Guy with a dude named Teddy Riley.

Egwuatu: I know guy, I know about Guy.

Prince: You know Guy? Okay, okay.

Egwuatu: Yeah, they're good, they're good.

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Prince: Yeah, yeah. So, Gene Griffin was their, was their producer. Well, he ended up—you know, he was on the on the East Coast in New York—he ended up moving to Atlanta and had this idea kind of like Babyface and L.A. reed with le face, like grooming the talent that was there in Atlanta. So, he found a guy that everybody knows by the name of Pastor Troy. And when Pastor Troy first came out Gene Griffith was the one that fronted him the money, the whole nine. He exploded, Pastor Troy exploded on the scene. Well, Gene Griffin was just like “listen, I’m trying to get some more people, I’m trying to get some more artists.” So, he you know my aunt said “hey, my nephew, my nephew can he he he can rap and like he's got an album that he already did.” So, I had a meeting. I brought, I brought my girlfriend at the time and my two kids with me to the studio. And he listened to my album. And he said Phife Dawg from--who's deceased now, too—Phife Dawg was making an album called Ventilation. And he said “there's this there's this one song that you got,” the song that I had called Dangerous Cats, I love it. He said “this song right here, yeah, I like that. If you throw the n word in there like quite a few times or maybe we could take the beat and we could give it to Phife Dawg, yeah.” So I was just kind of like okay. So my aunt and I were talking and she was like “pretty much what you would walk away with is like five thousand dollars.” And I was like “uh, no. No that's, no, no. I ain't doing this for five thousand dollars and he can keep it and I produced it.” So, you know in that moment though on my way home, I you know I’ve got my girlfriend and my kids and they're asleep in the back and I’m sitting here saying to myself I was just in the in the studio with a guy who did the song My Perogative by Bobby Brown. And I think it was maybe a couple of years later Britney Spears remade it and she had to pay him two and a half million dollars. Like, just think about that. Think about.

Egwuatu: Wow.

Prince: So, like you're sitting there in the studio with somebody who created a classic hit that years later somebody takes and “oh, hey my song is two, two and a half million or two, 2.5 million if you want to redo it.” “Okay, here you go, here's your check.” Now you got two and a half million dollars. So, when I start thinking about like what you were saying with the people that I was connected with in Cookeville--here, right here in Cookeville, you know, I start thinking to myself man, I was, I was, I was really blessed. I was really lucky. I should have made more out of the opportunity. But, you know, yeah, I’m just glad that I made the connections that I made with people.

Egwuatu: Man your life right now is just sounding amazing all the stuff that you've got to experience, like, I’m just thinking about this. You sound like you're just up close with all sorts of celebrities and stuff of that nature. I’m just like wow. I’m astonished.

Prince: Yeah, it was, I mean, it was, it was good. I've had some, you know I've had some moments. You know, some, some really good moments with like hip hop and with acting. So, I did a little bit of acting as well. It, it's, it's just been it's been an amazing ride it really has and the thing about it is I've tried to do it all from here. People have told me, "hey, look why don't you move to Atlanta, you'll have a better shot. Why don't you move to New York, you'll have a better shot." I've always wanted to just kind of not really put Cookeville on the map, but I was comfortable here. And that's kind of how it is with school. When I moved here--in Oklahoma, everybody kind of knew each other. It was big, but it wasn't huge. I got here and it was big. And the thinking that I had was "this is, this is, you know, smaller than Nashville, smaller than Knoxville, you know, smaller than, it's smaller than UT. That the people, not necessarily the landscape of the campus but the, the, the, the gathering and the grouping of people was smaller. So, what I wanted to do was this was a pretty small pond and I wanted to be the biggest fish that I could. And it took me some time shaking hands with people that I knew talked about me behind my back. You know, having to play the game sometimes with, with people and trying to get jobs. And I was trying to find a way to be relevant and I think that that's what happens on campus in most schools. You try to find a way to fit in, you try to find a way to be relevant. Some people lose themselves and become somebody else. But the great thing about what I've experienced was I was always me. I was always me. Yes, I'm the guy that's riding around bumping NSYNC. Yes, I know all five members first and last name. But I'm also bumping Wu-Tang Clan and I can name you know 10 members out of Wu-Tang. Yeah, I'm the guy that comes to the, comes, comes to the, the all, all black you know probate. I come to the probate with with a, with a caramel latte in my hand. Yeah, that's me! No, I don't, I don't have a Styrofoam cup with Hennessy in it, you know. I broke a lot of stereotypes, man, but I lived up to quite a few too. And I think that that's what happens in college with a lot of kids—they, they either live up to a stereotype or they break that stereotype and they need to remember that college is what you make it. College is some of the best years of your life. Some of the very best friends that I have, all from being at Tennessee Tech, all from being a Tennessee Tech.

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Egwuatu: And how, how was it for you being in like the minority, how did that also affect like just I guess you going through your 10 years at Tennessee Tech? Because it sounds like music and athletics kind of pushes in a certain direction. Did it also get influenced by being African American?

Prince: Yeah, yeah, so it definitely did. One of the things that I always noticed and it's something that I tell my kids, for different reasons for them. One of the things that I noticed that when I got here was I was—out of I think 11,000 students there were maybe only 300 Black students at the time. It may be smaller now, maybe more. But that is a big, big discrepancy in number. And so, I always felt like I was under the microscope. That no matter what I did, I had to do, I had to do it better than the white students because the expectation was that this Black kid's gonna come to this mostly white school, he's gonna drop out because he can't live up to our expectations. Now these expectations weren't set by certain people, certain

teachers, the president, or anybody because those were all good people at the time. Well, but they were all good people. It's kind of a systematic standard that's set. It's like an ivy league school, you're expected to have a 3.5 or even if you have a 3.5 that's like graduating bottom of your class. You're expected to do these things and if you don't then it's like “well we knew that he wouldn't be able to because you know he's a black kid.” And so, knowing that I was under this microscope, it's kind of what drove me. And like I said I used it mostly for music and athletics because, you know, I played intramurals, I, you know, even though I didn't do that, I played intramurals. And then later on I ended up playing semi-pro football, you know. 17, 17 years after coming to Tennessee Tech, my first regular season game as a semi-pro football player was at, in Tech stadium. And it was just kind of like 17 years later and I'm back, you know what I mean. And that grind that I had was the same grind that I had in the music business, but it wasn't the same grind that I had as a student. And it should have been. It, it should have been. But you know like you were you were asking and hopefully I'm answering it that, that, that motivation drove me to, to, to eventually come back, get my degree and, you know, continue to just be myself and not, not be somebody else.

Egwuatu: Were there any like teachers or faculty or friends that really helped like push you, like, re-get your focus and like focus on getting your degree? How did that happen? What, what paved you on that path?

Prince: Pretty much so there was a there was a lady by the name of Judy Roar who's, who's deceased as well, but she was awesome. She was the one that really pushed me to go into psychology. There was a gentleman by the name of Sydney Hardyway at Vol State—so, I was at Tech. I wanted to go somewhere to play basketball. I left and went to Vol State. That didn't work out. Transferred to TSU. That didn't work out. And so I came back to Tennessee Tech. And I had just so happened to have seen Judy Roar because she knew my girlfriend at the time. And she said you know “you're too intelligent to not, not be back in school and getting your degree.” There was also doctor—former president of the school, Dr. Volpe, Dr. Angelo Volpe. And then of course you know Dr. Rob. He's my best friend. He's, he's, he's like my pastor--he's my pastor now, my frat brother. But, you know, when I came back and he had graduated already and you know started a family he was just kind of like, “brother, you got to--” and you know how Rob talked. He talked like Darth Vader and Jesus was all wrapped up into one. “Brother, come on now.” And then he pushed him glasses up, it's over with, you know. So, he, he, he heavily influenced me to stay in school. Of course, my parents, my grandmother would always make jokes and say I'm gonna walk from Brooklyn to Cookeville and by the time I get there you should, you should be ready to graduate. Marc Burnett. Marc Burnett. The day I graduated when I walked across the stage other than Phillip Odom and Bobby Holdem, who used to be in Admissions, Marc Burnett was one of the first people that I hugged. And he's you know he said “you did it. I'm proud of you. Way to stick with it.” And I'm sitting there like, “Marc, man, you got me about to cry” and all these people done walked past me got their degrees. But yeah, there were a lot of people along the way. And there were more, more instructors along the

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way and people on staff. Libby Bridges that—Philips—that worked in, worked in Financial Aid. They all were right there to try to push me along and I just didn't take advantage of it. And that's what I tell people now. Like, you know, I mentor kids on campus or do forums with Rob, Dr. Rob and I always let them know, you know the biggest thing that I do is I tell people to look around. It's like, you know, if it's a group of young kids look around because I'm going to give you some honesty. One of y'all is going to be me you're going to think it's cool and sexy to walk around campus with a dictionary in your backpack and a full schedule and financial aid and you're gonna fail out. And you're not gonna graduate on time. You're gonna be 39 years old and you're gonna graduate. And it's up to you how you receive that. Are you gonna say I'm too old ain't gonna worry about it or are you just gonna, you know, get down and do it and say hey man it don't matter how how I finished or when I finished it just matters that I finish. So, yeah it's a--there's a lot of people that were along the way that helped me out. And I'm, I'm trying to pay it forward by you know trying to be that same, that same mentoring force and motivational force to, to guys y'all's age.

Egwuatu: So, actually so before I met you playing basketball at like Sunrise, I actually I think as a freshman I had sat in one of the forums that Dr. Rob had because of race.

Prince: Yep.

Egwuatu: And I remember you speaking.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: So I'm not sure if you remember meeting me there—

Prince: No.

Egwuatu: --because I know you've met tons of faces.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: But I remember sitting there hearing your story. And I think he had Shabbir's brother and somebody else there.

Prince: Yep.

Egwuatu: And you guys are just talking about your experiences. And like just hearing this again it's just—

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: --definitely enlightening to hear this because I definitely think people need to hear this. And even after hearing it like sometimes you know you just hear something you just let it go out the other ear and you don't take it seriously.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: But knowing from like the type of background you came from like what you're doing now it's just definitely incredible just to hear all this. Is almost like that like an inspirational story. Just like I was doing this, I was doing this, I did all this in between, and now I'm here. And it's just great to hear that.

Prince: Yeah. You know it's—and of course you know Dalen. You know my son Dalen. And I think that that's why we're so tight is because he was right along with me, you know, him and his sister, his sister, my, my, my oldest daughter. She was there from every time that I moved, every time that I got a wild hair to go to the studio. And you know here's this girl in her car seat sitting in the next room sleeping while I'm you know recording the next great album so I thought. You know, and then you know Dalen's along the way. Times that I had to go to shows. The crazy thing is Dalen's first experience with Tennessee Tech was when he was three months old. I had an exam that I had to take and my, my girlfriend at the time, his mother, she, she got held up in traffic or something coming back from Nashville. I took him into the classroom with me taking an exam. Bottle in one hand, trying to hold it with the left hand, writing my answers with the right hand. And then you know she, she showed up probably about 30 minutes in and was like "I'm so sorry!" I'm like "excuse me, I gotta go take this baby to this, this girl out here." You know, but there was actually a friend of mine who remembered that we were talking about the other day and he you know because I told him that we just had another baby and he was just like "you know what, one thing I'll say about you is you never let being a parent stop your grind. Because I remember when Dalen was you know in your arms and you're taking an exam." And, and that's, that's yeah it, it never really stopped my grind. And I wanted to make sure, you know, situations like that some people don't want to tell anybody about, but I want to make sure that people know that. Not to say "hey, look have babies and take them to your exam while you're doing your exam," but you have a child. Things happen. You get thrown off course. If the vision is there the, the, the big white board. You know the white board with nothing on it. That's the vision and you start filling it in a little bit at a time and then it's the completed vision. And you don't let anything deter you from it. If you've got up there hey look up you know I'm not playing college basketball. You know, I'm not a, I'm not a collegiate athlete, a D1 athlete. But I want to, I think I want to train hard enough to go and play overseas. It's totally attainable. You've got that in you, you know, because you thought of it and you've got a desire for it so why not make it happen.

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Egwuatu: Man, that is, that's great right there. I definitely, I actually have a friend that is in that position right now. So, he, we played high school basketball together and he wanted to play D1 but like all the offers he got weren't full ride and it was

going to cost a lot for him to play basketball. So, that he was like okay let me go to community college. So, after community college now he was like well I'm not sure I'm going to try to play basketball anymore after that for college. But he literally went to a combine in Florida where he got to like showcase in front of different people to see if he could play internationally and we got to watch it live on YouTube. We were cheering him on in like the chat section and stuff seeing how he was doing. So it's definitely, I definitely agree that like with drive you can, you can do anything just, just as long as you work hard enough. So you're definitely great proof of that.

Prince: The great thing about that is the, the most important piece that you said is, you know, you guys cheering him on through the chat. What a lot of people don't realize is, you know, social media is king. Communication is king. And when you see support--it's like nowadays, you know, I have a podcast with a friend of mine and we've had meetings with people from Spotify, we've had meetings with people from YouTube, and Title. And you know one of the biggest things that we want to know is you know where the money at. How we, how we get this over here get this money and they're like you know you got to have these many followers, and ad, and average these many followers. And you know for us we weren't like hey look we're doing this so we can get rich. We're doing this because we got tired of talking on the phone for two hours about how sorry the Detroit Lions are or how sorry the Jets are. So, you know, we, we took, we, we had a dream. And, you know, I actually put it as a post, you know, I said on one of my Instagram posts, do you ever sit back and dream about, you know, having your own podcast or do you ever sit back and wonder if you can make your dreams come true and question mark. And I was like, me neither. And that's the reason why is because I don't, I don't wait for, if I dream about something I'm passionate about something I don't, I don't waste my time with wondering about it and sitting there. I say to myself how can I make this happen. And so, with your friend, you know, "hey, look there's a combine. I can go down there and showcase this and maybe get overseas and even if I don't get picked up that day somebody gonna know my name. I'm gonna do something for somebody to know my name or at least know who I am." So, you know, that's kind of how I was with, with hip-hop and, and with doing shows. It was like, "man, did you hear the dude that sounded like Rock Em with the funny shaped head. The dark dude, I think he from New York, I can't remember his name." "D-Prince?" "Yeah! That's him." You know and then people remember your name. Or with playing football "hey, he's the really short corner that intercepted the ball and, and flipped the guy over. What's his name? Yeah, that's D-Prince, yeah, I know exactly who you're talking about." So that's what you have to do, you know, if you, you figure out a way to make that niche. You figure out a way to be, to make the most out of being in the moment.

Egwuatu: Man, so this is like slightly off topic or more off topic than we are, but so in high school I started a YouTube channel. So, I am like, I consider myself an at least above average gamer. I'm not the best but I know where I'm at.

Prince: Okay.

Egwuatu: So, like, I'm also really entertaining person because like when I get mad I'm just tearing up on my friends and stuff like that. So, like, I decided to start a YouTube channel.

Prince: Right.

Egwuatu: And I was actually doing pretty well. Like, I know my subscriber count wasn't that high, but like I knew kind of like what to look for in like making a video.

Prince: Yes!

Egwuatu: So I started making editorial videos for a game that I just got.

Prince: Nice!

Egwuatu: And actually one of the videos right now are at like—I think it's like 140k views and people are like “Josh, how did you do that” and I'm sitting here like man, I was just a kid playing my game and I figured out how to do something before everybody else figured out how to do it and then I posted it and I was like let's see what happens and it actually blew up. And after high school once I got to college with like school I kind of just like pushed all of this to the side and people would like message me even now like and be like “Josh, like, why did you not continue to do this?” I'm like man I just got busy I try to focus on all this.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: While I'm seeing other people in my position that are balancing everything perfectly fine and it's just like—

Prince: Yeah.

00:35:00 **Egwuatu:** --man, like I need to get, get back after that and like continue because like I have something if I truly like put my mind to it I could like become something on that platform. So I get what you're saying.

Prince: Absolutely. You, you think about it. You, you think about people like Justin Bieber. You think about people like Drake. You think about some of these people now. I mean you have to--it's different from when we were, when I was coming up, you know. To, to put out an album to actually do what I did which was kind of like along the lines of like, you know, Master P and all these other people who did theirs independently. When you do something like that that at that time, that was unheard of. That's not how you do it. You're supposed to go to a record company, you're supposed to dance and sing on someone's doorstep and hopefully get a deal. You look at like Justin Bieber who just started posting stuff on YouTube and somebody caught somebody's eye. Now, that's the only way that people sign

people. Your situation with the gaming and you've got you know a 100k or whatever followers your next step ought to be “hey, look, somebody from YouTube cut me a check. Listen, listen, you see how many followers I got in this corner right here? Cut me a check.” Because that's, that's what they're looking for, that's what they're looking for. So, yeah, no that's that's good keep the vision. If that's your vision you should do that you should. I'm all about time management so if you know that you—if you take an inventory, you study 15 hours a week and you go to school 15 hours a week that's 30 hours a week. There's 40 hours in in a work week you know. Eight to five, five days a week. When you just think about something like that. Okay, how can I squeeze 10 hours plus sleep. How can I squeeze 10 hours, you know, or two hours into that 10-hour time frame to keep doing this, keep doing this this thing with, with the gaming? And you just have to be disciplined about it and yeah it's definitely possible. So like I'm in the in the company of greatness, I'm sitting here with the Game Lord possibly.

Egwuatu: No nowhere near there yet.

Prince: Yeah, hey, listen when you get rich with the whole gaming thing, you start designing games, I need a character like me.

Egwuatu: Hey, I'll have to make that happen. If I get there right there, we'll see.

Prince: Make it happen, make it happen.

Egwuatu: Yes, sir. Well, I also wanted to ask you, so, you know, of course since we're talking about the BCC.

Prince: Yup.

Egwuatu: So, I know you mentioned that your uncle Corey was one of the founders. So, how did you personally get involved with the BCC?

Prince: So, like I said, you know, when I first got here Tech used to do the mixer. I think they do the Dancing on Dixie now and a big party outside. Well, for minorities, we used to just have like a mixer in the BCC. It was like you know cucumber sandwiches with the crust cut off, pineapples and strawberries on a toothpick, and some punch. And you know, I, I wanted to be plugged in. I didn't know how it was gonna happen but I knew that somehow some way I needed to meet some people. I didn't, I didn't, I never had a problem meeting people that were a different race. I think where my biggest issue was is getting along with people that look like me. We always lived—because my father was in the military, we always lived like in the, in the officers neighborhoods because my dad was like an executive assistant pretty much, and, but, he, he wasn't an officer. And so we lived around a lot of white people. We didn't really live around Black folks. And so, I, that was the biggest challenge for me was to try to find people that looked like me that I could get along with. And I did that when I went to the BCC. There were, you

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know, kids from different areas that had, that were just like me. You know, some of my friends that I mentioned, that I mentioned already. My, my friend Mike Collins, my friend Dave Corte, you know. We were all athletes but you know we were the guys in school who, just those two in particular I'm thinking of, when I was in high school a lot of the kids that I hung out with, a lot of kids that I knew didn't have two parents in the same household. They had mom or they had grandma that they were raised by. I had both my parents. Mike had both his parents. Dave had both his parents. So, we kind of knew what that was like, you know. When I had guys that I hung out with that was just like, you know, I'm like "yo, man what's wrong with you?" "Oh, man you know my dad came around after like six years" and I'm just kind of like "I don't know what that's like, so you know you got to hit me up to that." And, and that was good you know getting those experiences, but I was around people that were just like me. You know, look like me. We dressed the same. We had both parents. We had siblings that got on our nerves. And you know it was just refreshing. And I got all I got all that through the BCC. And the BCC was a place where everybody hung up. So, at the time, you know, if you didn't have a TV or whatever in your dorm room, or you didn't--I believe they had cable for you, but you didn't have like BET. We went to the BCC. That was when BET used to play videos. And so like all the newest music, Rap City, you know, the 106 in Part, we used to run over to the BCC and watch that. So, you'd have 20-30 people crammed into the BCC trying to watch you know Rap City. And then of course you got six or seven dudes who think that they can freestyle. I'm like "naw, let me watch the video, shush." So, you know that that's what it was. It was our, it was our headquarters. It was in our headquarters. You know, "hey, I, I need a, I need to get a homework assignment, this is that and the other." "Oh, well just meet me at the BCC." Because, you know, you go to the library, "where are you going to be? Upstairs, downstairs?" "I'm going to be downstairs." "Where? Media center?" "Naw, naw, not the media center." "Just meet me in the BCC, man, I'll get it over there." So it was, it was, it was like our headquarters. It was, it was where life happened for us.

Egwuatu: Man, so, the BCC hasn't changed in size I assume since it's been made of course.

Prince: Not really.

Egwuatu: So you guys are just hooking it up since then. Because I know like for us now, the BCC--I'm not sure if you guys had a computer lab then inside the BCC?

Prince: No, no, no, no, wasn't no computer lab. I was around, I was around when we got the computer lab in the BCC. I was definitely around when we, when we got the computer lab in the BCC. And at that point in time man, the only thing people were doing was trying to go in there and get on Myspace. That's, that's out, that's dating me a little bit. But you know you're trying to get on Myspace and then when they put the restrictions on that and then nobody want to go in there unless you was printing a paper or something and couldn't do it in the library.

Egwuatu: Okay, yeah I know definitely that library thing like even now like when I'm calling somebody like "hey, man, I need to give this to you immediately" the BCC is the best option because like me personally, I know I'm in the library a lot due to the fact like a lot of my friends are like in my major and I'm an electrical engineer.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: So like me trying to bring them to the BCC, I think about, I'm like yeah that's not gonna work. So I'm gonna be in the library with them. But when someone else is trying to meet me, they'll be like hey, I need to give you something, I'm gonna be like let's go to the BCC because it's definitely that like you said like headquarters. It's definitely--

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: --the easiest place to access--

Prince: It is.

Egwuatu: --for pretty much anyone that falls under the minority right there. Like, I know for us, it's definitely a lot more diverse. I don't know how diverse it was—

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: --while you were in the BCC, but like as of right now like now like I'll walk into like a study session and like I'll see like all kinds of people there. Like, I'm honestly surprised because like I know like for RACE like when we were there like our first it was just us but like now like I'm looking in there like I'm seeing like people I'm surprised to see in there and then it's just definitely like uplifting to see that kind of engagement with the BCC and I know--

Prince: Well, I was going to say, you know and speaking on diversity at the, at the BCC, if someone white walked in, everything stopped. When, when I, I promise you when we was there—unless of course, so here's the thing, of course there's a couple of interracial couples. But, at some points in time like white girlfriends--I'll just say it--white girlfriends did not come in there. Like, they just didn't show up. You know, it was always "hey, somewhere else." The other thing about it was, it was like your homeroom. Whenever like when you were in elementary school or middle school your homeroom. You wore your new shoes or you wore your new outfit: that was the BCC for us. I was, I was a complete Jordan head and, and sweat suits, new haircut. New earrings for the girls. They cut their hair--that's how you knew. It's like "hey, so-and-so, man she cut her hair, did you see it?" "Naw, when did you see it?" "She came by the BCC." "Oh man, I missed it." "You get the new Jordans?" "Yeah, I wore them to the BCC yesterday." So, it was like our home

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room showing off our outfits. It was like a fashion show, you know. I can't, I can't express it in any, any other way. It was the headquarters for everything for our fashion, for our music. We bring music there. We play cards up there. We'd study though. They, they would. I wouldn't. But you know, it was, it was where you would go to study and the whole nine. So, yeah. It was, when, when people graduated or when their parents came for homecoming, I always took my, my parents to the BCC. They would have like a homecoming welcoming or something of the other, parents welcome. So when they have parents day, you go to the BCC. You hang out in there for a little bit. You, you meet whoever was in charge and then you know then you go to the game or you go to the, to the tailgate. And that was, that was your homecoming. It was, it was so, it was so good, so good. The BCC was a big part of that.

Egwuatu: Man, when you talked about the, the homecoming week, literally I remember as a mentor for RACE my sophomore year. So, we had that same event.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: And I can remember, I think the funniest thing we did was we were playing spades. So, I can remember one of the freshmen like he decided to be my partner and we were just whooping everyone in his face like we were playing parents and stuff—

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: --and like just like other kids that ended up coming out there.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: And it was definitely just like a great bonding experience. Just being able to like relax. You can see everything going on from where the BCC is located because it's like you can see like the field there. So—

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: --it definitely, it was like definitely nice to just hang out and chill before everything got kicked off.

Prince: Absolutely.

Egwuatu: So yeah we had a little bit of what you guys had. It sounded like you guys had it a lot better though, but we have a little going on.

Prince: Yeah, well you got to realize that a lot of y'all now--and by y'all, I mean you know students. A lot of the students now, they either stay off campus in their own apartments. We didn't really have that. You had seniors and juniors. Freshmen

and sophomores, sophomores did not live off campus. We lived on campus, we used the cafeteria, we used the Grill. And we, we, we had the BCC. That's what--and the fitness center--that's what we did. It was like clockwork, you know. I, I still remember my schedule. I would go to class--I never had any eight o'clock classes. I wouldn't do that to myself. I would have a class. In between that, I'd go to the BCC. I would hang out at the BCC til Rap City came on. Rap City come on, I watched that. And then as soon as Rap City went off, we had to go over to the fitness center because that's when the good games started. And I would stay there til eight. Other people would stay there til six and go eat and then go study, but I was there until eight o'clock. I, it was, it was such a beautiful time. It, to be a kid and act like a kid and be carefree. The only thing different I would do is I would slam, kind of put some study time in there and got out maybe four or five years rather than 10. But—

Egwuatu: I think I kind of followed what you wanted to do in terms of if you saw me in the freshman squad oh my gosh we were ridiculous. Like, so, we couldn't avoid our eight AMs. I don't know how you did that, but I tried. No, not possible at all. I had eight AM every day my first year, freshman year, and literally we would like go to classes, we eat, and then we'd go to the fit from literally like seven to when it closed at 11. And then after that like sometimes we wouldn't even take showers. We'd go straight from there to the library because the library closes at two.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: And we still have all this work that needs to get done but we were like man we wanted to hoop. Like why, we, we try to tackle everything. Like nowadays, we definitely do not do that anymore because that would end us like academic-wise, we'd just be through. But definitely obviously what you mean like freshman year I feel like gave me the opportunity to just try everything, like, I could get my hands on. I try to do everything. I try to get involved in organizations all the intramural sports still even to this day.

Prince: Absolutely.

Egwuatu: I don't care what I'm doing, every season that there's an intramural sport I have to be playing something.

Prince: Got to. Got to.

Egwuatu: If it's got to be football, basketball, soccer. I was playing stuff that I suck at, like, I've never tried before. Like, literally this past semester they asked me to play softball and I looked and I was like "I've never played softball before. I've never played baseball before." And I do not like to suck at anything. Like, I refuse to put myself in a position that I'm just going to be terrible at something. But they were like "you'll be fine." So, literally you should have saw me watching YouTube videos the whole day before we went and played our first game. And I literally hit two grounders and I was just so proud of myself. I was like look, I've never done

this before. And I was running them bases hard. So I, I understand, like, definitely with you when, when you say that college is your, your chance to be free. Oh yeah. I'm, I'm trying my best right now.

Prince: That's good.

Egwuatu: Like, currently—

Prince: Experience everything.

Egwuatu: Oh yeah, that's, that's definitely the goal. So, actually, I'm paused. So I'm on a co-op in Huntsville, Alabama right now. So that's like where I'm at right now.

Prince: Okay.

Egwuatu: And I'm working for this company called Intuitive Research and Technology, they're like a military contractor.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: So, right now I'm a little bit on pause since I'm on co-op, but definitely—

Prince: Yep.

Egwuatu: --able to still enjoy like once I get back because I'll have a, two semesters left of school before that.

Prince: Wow.

Egwuatu: So.

Prince: I mean, you know, I think about it I could have, you know, I had opportunities to chase co-ops. And, you know, people literally were coming in and I was being pushed to them. Like "hey, go talk to him this is the thing." I'm just gonna, I'm gonna enjoy it. I'm gonna enjoy it. And then you know the crazy thing was there were people that you know graduated high school after me, some friends that I still have to this day that are like three or four years younger than me. You know, they came in after me, they graduated before me. And that's what I tell people all the time, when I tell people you're gonna be me, somebody's gonna be me in this room is what I tell them. And that's what it is you're gonna, you're gonna gonna graduate, you're gonna go to school. When you get there you're gonna meet people that are two and three years younger than you. You're gonna continue to do your thing and these people are gonna pass you by. I've got a friend of mine that that retired, retired from manufacturing and then unretired and is working again

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somewhere. I'm just like who does that? And here I am, you know, the longest that I've worked at a job is like eight years. Because I've tried so many different things and I've worked in so many different arenas. But the thing about it was is that you know I think about it I could have been in that situation too if I had just looked at the vision and the vision would have had graduate and I would have been serious about it. You know, I could have been in a situation where at my age I could have, you know, graduated at 22, worked 20 years somewhere where they have a program where you can retire from that place, and then that would have been four years ago and I could have been sitting here like hey, I'm retired. But instead I'm still having babies, still--It's not bad. It's not bad.

Egwuatu: Alright, I was about to say. I enjoyed the basketball hoops, that's what I'm gonna miss. I was like, man, I've been trying to literally find gyms here. Like either stuff is closed and I have no clue for any community center or anything is at so I got to figure that out so I can keep hooping. But—

Prince: Yep.

Egwuatu: --but, like you were talking about a little bit. So, what do you do currently, like, right now? Post college, post everything?

Prince: So, right now. So, I've got 17 years of HR experience and I've done HR as a director, as a manager, and a generalist, a senior generalist which is a, like the top representative. I've done it in different arenas. I was a director of HR for an in-home healthcare company. I was a, a senior generalist an assistant, an interim HR manager at a facility, a manufacturing facility, automotive manufacturing facility. I've done payroll in HR. I've done it all. And then right now what I'm currently, my current job is I'm the director of a non-profit child advocacy program called CASA. And it stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. And it is, it, it's I don't know how to explain it other than it's probably the best job that I've ever had. Because I know in the end I'm doing something that's servicing these kids that are neglected and abused. So what I do is I, I manage getting them volunteers that pay attention to them. You know, keep, these kids have this voice and they get wrapped up in the court system. So, all of ours are appointed by the judge, like, you know, we don't just take people off the street. It has to be appointed by the judge. And what happens is the, the judge, there's a case with the kids. Mom and dad are normally not together. So, mom's got a lawyer, dad's got a lawyer, then they've got a lawyer for the child. But the lawyer has other cases, other children. The, and there's certain things that you can't say to the child. And then you've got DCS who's got 80 cases spread across 90 counties and this kid is just one of them. So, do they really have somebody who's there for them to listen to them to, to voice how they're feeling? And that's where I come in with my program and my coordinators. We get somebody who's volunteering their time to come in and check on the child, wellness checks. And with the pandemic, it's like you know you can't go into other people's homes, you got to do it by Zoom. But, like, let's say that you were a child right now and you've got on a long sleeve shirt. If you were being abused, I wouldn't know

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because I can't see anything, you know. "Hey, you're gonna abuse a child, but don't abuse the face because, you know," and that's how some of these people think. So, you know, I get advocates that go in, do house, you know, home checks, wellness checks on these kids and the kids are able to tell them hey this is what's going on. So, like if you were an abused child, I would go in and you just say "hey, how was your day?" Normally you probably say "fine." "What you do today?" "Nothing." Well, my advocates in this program they dig deep. You say, "hey," you know, I say "hey, what did you do today at school?" "Nothing." "Okay, well, tell me what nothing looks like." "I don't know, just nothing." "Okay, so what did, when you were doing nothing at eight o'clock, what were you doing?" "Nothing, just you know, I walked down the hallway." "Ah, do you like your school? Is it big? Is it this?" And the next thing you know, they've started with that to tell you nothing, and they're telling you that "little, little Jamie in her class pulled their hair and I don't like that now I want to do something to Jamie." And they establish these relationships. So, that's what we do.

Egwuatu: Now that's great I might actually have to get your advice on something. So, me and a friend and some other people, we started or we're in the process of trying to start a non-profit organization. And this took place this past summer. And what we're trying to do is create a program kind of like an outreach for children in Africa. It's called ACE. So, it's called African Initiative for Core Education because like the education system in Africa in like general isn't really that good.

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: And like we just wanted to give people a chance to like either like have access to like scholarships, or like better school equipment, and like material for their classes so they can succeed. Because I know like sometimes you know the cases that like you just weren't given good enough stuff or even the opportunity to succeed, not the fact that you just chose not to. So, like we're trying to start that up. And like I know like we need all sorts of guidance of like what we're trying to do. Like, literally, like, we created like a scholarship source like base where like we went on like Excel and we like looked up all these scholarships for like each country and like organized it by like if this is for like undergrad, grad, international, or if it's like in their country, and all this stuff. So, like I understand, like, I know it's completely different from what you said. But, it definitely like made me think about like what we're trying to do right now, even though we're in the beginning phases. And like how you're like changing people's lives every day really and just making a huge impact on that it's definitely—

Prince: Well, I tell you, I tell you you know off, off, off, off camera, off the books off the record, you know, we'll, we'll link up. And there's, there's a few things that you got to have but it's totally attainable like if that's the vision for you, it's totally attainable. There's only a few things that you need and, and you should, you should be in good shape. And what a lot of people don't understand is when you start nonprofits, you know, you have to give like an operating cost budget. Like you

know at the end of the year we're going to have zero, but during the course of the year our operating budget is going to be this much. So we need grants for this and that. And there's going to be grants available, there's going to be all kinds of things. So yeah, yeah we'll talk, we'll talk about it. I definitely can give you some, some insight on how to get it started

Egwuatu: No, I appreciate it, Mr. Prince. I definitely appreciate that.

Prince: I'm around. I'm around. I'm around.

Egwuatu: Thank you, thank you. Well, do you have any like distinct memories that you made at Tennessee Tech as like we're closing up?

Prince: Yeah. So, there's three of the most important. There's three of the most important memories that I have and they were the things that, that shaped my life. And that's why, the Tennessee Tech will be, it's always gonna be important to me, regardless of what's going on with it. Tennessee Tech is always gonna hold a place in my heart, not just as the place I graduated from and got my degree. But it's, there's, three, three situations in, in general. The first one was we had a, a show, a small show showcasing rap talent back in like 1993. And I had done a song and I played it for some people back in Oklahoma and when they heard it they were like "dude, that is whaaaack." And I, this was like two days before, you know, they was like "dude, that sucks, dude. Like, don't do that one." and I'm like "this is the only one I got!" So, two days later you know I'm, I'm supposed to be performing a song and I remember like it was yesterday it--I played the song. Because I'm the type of person when I have a challenge, I confront it or even when there's confrontation and I know it's not going to be good, maybe a good result, I still do it. So, all in all it's my turn. I get up there, I do the song, I kind of rush through it. I didn't even stick around to see if anybody liked it. I like did my thing and then like gave the mic to the host and I was walking out. And I stopped for a second and I started hearing people cheering. And they was just like "D, that was good." And like girls was coming up to me. And the reason why I mentioned that and I remember that is because that is, that was the building block of the confidence that I have today. People will tell you anybody that knows me I'm an extremely confident person. And that, but I remember that distinctly because at that point I was like you never know what's gonna happen and then I thought anything I did I could do no wrong. But that was, that was that was one. Number two distinct memory is graduation day. Being in that arena—I had been in that arena so many times, I've been in the Hooper Ebelin center so many times sitting in the stands, watching people graduate. People that came in four years after me and was leaving and left three, five years before me. But the feeling of being on that floor and looking up at that stage and then getting that degree, and knowing that at the time for me, you know, a lot of people had said "you get your degree and I'll hire you and you'll start making more money." And then I finally did it and then I actually increased my earning potential by—I doubled my earning potential. That was, that was another fond memory. And

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then the last one that I remember was actually in the Multi-purpose Room right next to the, right next to the BCC. We had something called ACE camp.

Egwuatu: Okay.

Prince: Yeah, it was but it stands for something totally different.

Egwuatu: Okay.

Prince: We had something called ACE camp and we had kids down, you know, high school seniors that were thinking about coming to Tennessee Tech. And, you know, I was hanging out with my friends this time that and the other. I saw one of my friends and he came in and introduced me to this girl he was seeing and we, you know, we, we met shook hands. And we saw each other on campus a lot. And I saw her in the BCC and she said "I saw you come up here and just wanted to know what this place was." And I sat there for with her for probably about 45 minutes and, you, just kind of talked to her. So, that young lady ended up becoming my wife that I married in 2011. Unfortunately, she passed away in 2018, but, you know, that's, that's a, that's a love story kind of beginning that I'll be able to tell my, to tell my kids. Which, which, which I'll, I'll hold close to me. So yeah, those are three of my fondest memories, including the BCC, including the, including, you know, Tennessee Tech as a whole.

Egwuatu: Well Mr. Prince, man, you sure know how to how to tell a story. I'll have to give it to you, like, this has been one of the funniest conversations I've had—

Prince: Good.

Egwuatu: --like, ever. Just hearing all sorts of stuff. So, I just wanted to say it was a pleasure to talk to you about everything and like now, like on my end actually I want to keep in touch with you. Like, I know you gave me your number and I have your email that apparently you barely use of course that you mentioned that but, but this was, this was a pleasure to have you. I'll be following up in like a couple days just to check in with everything and like let you know what's going on. So, I know that Ms. Hannah is going to take the audio of this video—

Prince: Yeah.

Egwuatu: --and like put it in a file where it can be like accessed like specifically by people that go searching for it. And there's also going to be kind of like a video put together—

Prince: Okay.

Egwuatu: --to kind of just like show like everyone's thought about the BCC and Tennessee Tech and how it's affected them as a minority.

Prince: Okay.

Egwuatu: So, I just can't wait for you to see how this how this goes.

Prince: Okay.

Egwuatu: But I just want to thank you for your time, sir.

Prince: Sounds good, man, listen, check this out: you, you are a, you're a bright young man with a bright future. Remember it's about vision and remember this thing that I tell everybody: AIM. And I told you that day that you were talking about where I was there at the forum, I always mention AIM which is A-I-M. It's accountability, integrity, and mission. Accountability: accept things for yourself, don't point fingers. Integrity is doing what you say every single time. And then the mission is setting a goal, short term and long term. You keep those things together, it's what got me through. It's what got me over. But you are such a bright, bright kid. You have great communication skills. And, and you've got it—that, that spark. You got it. So, no matter what happens, good days, bad days, just remember that I said that. Hopefully that'll, that'll continue to carry you through. You're gonna do big things, man. But, text me, call me anytime. I'm around. Come get this work on the basketball court. Come get this work!

01:05:00

[Prince pretends to shoot a basketball]

Egwuatu: Yes, sir, sounds good. Oh man, well it was a pleasure.

Prince: It was good to talk to you, man.

Egwuatu: Yes, sir. Take it easy Mr. Prince. Have a good one.

Prince: Okay. Be good.

Egwuatu: You too.

End of transcript.