

“How I Got Here: Lemnique—Student-focused Video”

Lemnique: I love animals because they have so many personalities. They're goofy, friendly, some like to just cuddle up with you while others just go for it. They see that ball and you throw it, there's no turning back. It's the same with people. If you have a goal, you have to go get it. My name is Lemnique, I live in Houston and I'm a veterinarian.

Since I was 5 years old, I knew that I wanted to be a veterinarian. There's no other way to get this degree unless you go to college. As a kid, I've always loved animals. I was a only child and my mother was a single mother. She's worked 2 to 3 jobs in order for me to get where I am today. "Oh, look at that face."

Encouraging your students to job shadow before they declare a college major is another great way to determine if they're on the right path, but as you'll see in this next section, Lemnique goes a step further by taking a job at a vet clinic the very first chance she gets. You might even say she vetted her passion for animals, not that I would say that, but you might.

When I was 16, my first job was a veterinarian assistant, and that changed my whole world. "You doing okay, buddy?" I got to see in action what a veterinarian does, even surgery and how surgery's done. Wonderful mentors guided me. "So how did you prep for a vet school?" They showed me the way.

I went to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. It was just an awesome experience with the great professors. I got to learn about different subjects, not just the basics, but every layer of science. In college, I had the opportunity to go to Belize studying abroad, and to get to Belize, I had to raise money. Thankfully I did, so when I was there, I was able to work with pigs, tortoises, even touch and play with a jaguar. It was a great experience. While you're learning, you can still have fun at the same time and meet great people.

After college, med school, which was [inaudible 00:06:55], that school was crying and praying and no sleep, no eating, but I made it and I feel like as long as you're persistent, anything's possible.

I work at the University of Texas Health Science Center working with laboratory animals, and I also like to volunteer at low-cost spay and neuter clinics. "Hello, who do we have here today?" There's only approximately 2% of veterinarians that are African-American vets, and I'm hoping to change that to make it a known career for people of my ethnicity. If you have a dream job, college can help you go get it. You can become anything that you want to be. Just do it.