

...and now.

After four years of living on the Board of Child Care's Baltimore campus, 17-year-old Jeremiah is excited about moving on to another campus—the campus of North Carolina State University, where he plans to study engineering.

Jeremiah worked hard to land a spot at the school, earning a 3.5 cumulative grade point average while also playing for the high school football and basketball teams and BCC's basketball team, as well as holding down a job at Panera Bread. Jeremiah credits his success with simply paying attention in class, but when he first arrived at the Board of Child Care at the age of 13, he was at a significant disadvantage academically, having never attended a day of school in his life.

Through one-on-one instruction with a teacher at the Hagerstown Group Home where he initially resided, he quickly brought himself up to speed and entered school for the first time as an eighth grader. Describing the experience of going to school, Jeremiah recalls, "I was open to everything. I was willing to accept what the new experience would be like."

Jeremiah credits BCC with helping him handle his busy school and sports schedule. "[BCC] really

helped me stay focused in high school. If I had a problem with something...I could access staff and they could help me. When I was applying for schools, the staff helped me stay on track and on time with the deadlines and application process." Staff also accompanied him on college visits, including his visit to Raleigh, North Carolina, which was the deciding factor in his decision to attend North Carolina State, in addition to the financial aide package (including scholarships) they offered him, totaling \$29,000 his first year.

Throughout his high school years, staff also helped him "work on my game," he says, by opening up the gymnasium during off hours and shooting some hoops with him or throwing a football so he could get extra sports training time in. Noticing his dedication, BCC staff nominated him to receive the Youth Achievement Award from the Maryland Association of Resources for Families and Youth.

When he goes off to college, Jeremiah says he will miss the many staff, administrators and other youth he met at BCC over the years. Life at BCC, he says, is "a nice opportunity to meet new people and build relationships."

