

Bepko Scholar Program

Kellen Knowles is studying bio-medical engineering thanks to the Bepko Scholarship

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Transcript

[K. Knowles] Hi, my name is Kellen Knowles, and I'm a senior here at IUPUI studying bio-medical engineering.

I came to Indianapolis from Nassau, Bahamas, which is where I was born and raised. Growing up we came to the U.S. at least once a year for family vacations, so coming to the U.S. to study here, to attend university here, was not really a huge adjustment.

How did you learn about IUPUI?

I learned about IUPUI through some friends of ours that used to live in the Bahamas and moved here to Indianapolis. And when I was looking for college they told me about IUPUI, and I checked it out. And I was able to get scholarships and that's really a big thing as an international student studying abroad. School fees are really expensive. My school fees are about three times as much as an in-state student's school fees. Being able to have scholarships to help defray some of those costs was really a must, and that was really necessary.

My parents would have tried to do all they could to help pay for the education. Definitely having scholarships was a big help. And I was able to get a scholarship, the Bepko Scholarship, here at IUPUI and that's really significantly helped with cost of education significantly.

What is the Bepko Scholarship?

I'm a Bepko Scholar, and I received the scholarship when I was... It's an entry scholarship that you receive and apply for. For Indiana residents it pays for all the tuition and books and fees for all four years as well as two years of living in on-campus housing.

As an international student I get my school fees at the Indiana resident rate, but I'm also eligible for the other honor scholarships like the valedictorian scholarship or the other honor scholarships out there that other Bepko Scholars wouldn't be eligible for; because of my international status, I'm eligible for because all of my fees aren't covered.

What career opportunities exist in Bio-medical engineering?

Some statistics that I looked at - I don't know, I don't have anything official to back this up - but some statistics that I did look at did say that for bio-medical engineers going into medical school, that 100 percent of those that apply to medical school in one particular state or one particular university, 100 percent of those that applied got in.

Bio-medical engineering just definitely seems like it's a really good field in preparation for, like dental school, like medical school, law school. There are a few of us, like me, that are also considering going to

graduate school and going on to get a Ph.D. and doing research. I have also thought about becoming a faculty, becoming a professor in bio-medical engineering, and so it's one of the other options as well.

Do you believe your faith has played a role in your academic success?

I attribute a lot of my successes and my achievements, all of them, to Jesus Christ. That's just really something that I have to put out there and have to say because I am who I am today because of my relationship with him. I attribute all of my success and my achievements to my relationship with him and to him.