

A Nontraditional Student

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As a returning student, Jaree Weeks focus is in religious studies and many other career goals

Duration

3:04

Transcript

I'm Jaree Urban Weeks. I'm a senior in the School of Liberal Arts, majoring in Religious Studies and minoring in African-American African Diaspora Studies. I'm also a student in SPEA, with a dual certificate in American Humanics and Not-for-Profit Management.

So, after all of my children were in the first grade, I decided it was time for me to come back and finish what I had started at IU Bloomington so many years ago. Basically, there are a lot of nontraditional students here, and you do not feel that you are at school with a lot of younger students all the time, even though you may have more students who are younger. But there are always students here who are your age and it's very conducive to my lifestyle. Coming back to IUPUI, I really enjoyed the campus life even more than I did the first time, as far as getting involved in different student organizations and interacting with my professors. I felt more confident talking with them than I would have when I was younger.

What are your career goals?

My goal with my bachelor's degree was to be able to go into the Center on Philanthropy where I will be going on to become a CFRE, a certified fundraiser executive. I also would like to work with nonprofits, mainly medium and small nonprofits so they can run a lot better. I've done an internship at my church, Mt. Carmel church. By doing the internship, I was able to work with the executive offices of the church, not just the pastor. And, by studying religion, I've become more compassionate about others and it's also led me to go into the field of not-for-profits and not-for-profit management. So, the religious studies department led me to change what I wanted to do with my life.

What have you learned through religious studies?

With religion, it's so broad and expands all over the world, and it actually, through religion, you learn about all different cultures, and it's a good way to learn about cultures. I would say to them that the religious studies department is one of the best departments here on campus. And, I say that because it is a very small department, but all of the professors, and even the secretary, Debbie Dale, are here to nurture you. In any aspect you want to pursue, they're here to help. They point you in the right direction. They advise you and they are very compassionate and caring.