

## Personal Statement\_ Wilkens Cadet

Aug. 14, 2010, I stepped off the big yellow vehicle that held so many hopes at once and started doing my routine walk to “that” house. The sun glared and the blue luminescent sky stared at me. I stared back at it as long as possible, for I knew my next couple of steps would lead to a tunnel- one where I wasn’t sure there was light at the end of. Finally, I am at the doorsteps of what I called home and to no surprise “click, cleekeck, click, cleekeck.” It seemed like it was going to be another one of those nights.

Aug. 15, 2010, The alarm that ran on batteries screamed its annoying melodies and I woke. I got up and as I opened my eyes I saw nothing, I walked to where I knew the light switch was and “click, click.” Nothing!! I didn’t know why I tried in the first place. I struck a match to help guide me to the bathroom. I took off my clothes and I got ready to take my shower. I turned the knob and only a single drop of water came out. Not surprised. I guess it just means that it's time to fill the buckets with the neighbor’s hose water...

June 23, 2011, Eviction Notice, Time to move

July 13, 2012, Eviction Notice, Time to move

March 3, 2013, Eviction Notice, Time to move

Again, we settle in, but this time not into a house, but a motel. This is the place where I felt the darkness most. August 23, 2015, my father’s death, was the day I realized the tunnel can become pitch black in an instant. If there was any hope of light in my body, it went out and I became uniform with the tunnel. My character, my mannerism, my personality, and my mindset changed completely.

Oct. 17, 2017, Finally back into a house again. For so long it felt like I was walking in place, in this black void. I woke up every day wondering how long this tunnel would be. Nevertheless, I picked my head up and stared straight through this tunnel called life. I decided

## Personal Statement\_ Wilkens Cadet

that if I wanted to get out I had to believe I could; I had to always keep going no matter how hard the circumstances presented themselves otherwise the darkness would consume me.

July 12, 2021- As my energy to keep walking this path diminished, I saw a torch blazing in the darkness(Path to College) and realized that I did not have to trek this journey alone. So, I picked up the torch and used it to make sure I wouldn't lose sight in this void. I have to keep going, even though I can see what's farther ahead; I was prepared to run through it, whether it's debris or a wall. I won't stop, I won't, because now I'm starting to see the little glimpse of light I've been yearning so desperately for. I start to think in my head what I'll do when I finally get out of here: start an organization where I can help individuals with the triumphs in their path, become financially stable and literate so my kid and their kids will never know the sound "click, click", become an analyst, and even invent. I can't wait to see the golden coin that shines its rays and reflections so brightly but that is an event I can't put too much attention to because right now I have to pay attention to the obstacles ahead. I will be the one to illuminate the path, so the generations behind me will have a clear view of what's next to come. As I push forward, I keep saying to myself "I won't stop; I won't drop; I won't lay; I won't stray because this man right here... Is here to stay..."