

**THIS IS ONEIDA
MORE 2015 GRADUATES SHARE THEIR STORIES**

The following are excerpts from four of our 2015 graduates.

Male Staff Student – I learned to use every week, every day, every hour, every minute and every second to my advantage. We only have so much time and no matter what you do with it, it will pass. I learned to turn off my phone, put down my laptop, and shut my IPod off. I learned to live in the moment I am in. When you are at OBI, maybe you don't want to be. I didn't always, either. It's not about where you are or even who you are with; it is about what you take from all of these! It's not about what you walk away from. It is about what you walk away with. I learned to have ambition, embrace desire and dream ridiculously big dreams!

Male Boarding Student from Liberty Township, Ohio - Even though I have been through countless chapel services, OBI has increased my spiritual growth. There are many that I have stayed awake in, and every single one has taught me a lesson. Whether it is repeating the same lesson over and over again, there is always something new to learn. I thank God for bringing me here to get closer to Him and to learn more about Him and His love.

Female Student from Cincinnati, Ohio - The first thing that comes to my mind when I think about the day I arrived at OBI is the feeling of acceptance I got. I felt relieved to see that all of the girls in the dorm were expected to pull as much weight as the rest. At my house, since I was the only girl, I was expected to take care of all the chores; even the ones more fit for a man. Before I went bed, the houseparents came to each room to say goodnight, and before school, they wished us each a good day. The little things like that made me feel so much warmth and comfort. Not long after I got here, the love of Jesus started taking hold of my heart. For the first time I learned about God and Christianity. I felt at peace with myself.

Female Boarding Student from Ethiopia - I'm thankful that I went to OBI to give me a glimpse of the world. Before, I didn't know a lot about the world because I lived under my parent's roof; but now, I'm more familiar with it. I guess this made me more ready to go to college and face the world.

Thank you, friends of Oneida, for helping these four young people reach their dreams. Even though they may never meet you or know you personally, they are grateful to you.



**Larry A. Gritton, Jr.
OBI President**

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