

The Story Of A Boy- Iddris Sandu

It all began in middle school, 8th grade. I had just finished reading a book on Nikola Tesla, Einstein's Theory Of Relativity, and was in the process of reading an article on Steve Jobs. I read literally everything and anything I could grasp relating to the two. As I was reading, I was approached by a Caucasian boy who snatched my article out of my hand and stepped on it repeatedly saying "What I was looking at wasn't meant for people of my race and that no matter how hard I tried, I was never going to be successful in life. The nature of this attitude towards me, I knew not. Little did I know that this was just the beginning of years of doubt, hate, low self-esteem, and un-acceptance into a broken society whom if you were African-American, perseverance, persistence, and drive didn't mean much.

When high school started, I was conflicted by many social, economical, and especially family related problems. One of which was the fact that I had to embrace the reality that my father was simply not going to pay for my college tuition and really didn't care about my future. I mean wasn't it always that way. My mother would often find herself conflicting with my father in order to supplicate my basic needs. In addition to constantly being exposed to drugs, racism, and un-affection, one day, my father told me that I wasn't going to do much in life and that my only option for college was through joining a branch of the military. He didn't care for me at all. What made it worse, was the people that I worked with all thought that I was a child living wealthy in Beverly Hills due to my many achievements. I mean, how could a child from such a poor underrepresented background achieve so much in so little time: all before the age of eighteen. Nevertheless With everyone I considered close to me not being able to provide for me,, I made a vow to myself that I was not only going to prove to everyone that race means nothing provided one has the perseverance and drive to accomplish a task. I was going to apply whatever knowledge and skill I knew to make a difference in my society by creating and providing innovative apparatuses to benefit the people.

Today, my work and dedication as a youth is recognized by many to name a few; Congresswoman Janice Hahn, Congresswoman Barbara Boxer, Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Councilman Joe Buscaino. I can say today, I have been granted the opportunity to embark on a life changing experience to Washington DC through which I met president Obama' administration and expressed my views to them on expanding the areas of STEM to less underprivileged schools. Furthermore with the co-ordination of my principal, I gave back to my community by single handedly writing code for the first universal high school mobile software application .It was not only made by an African American student, but is was the first of its kind ever. Today, I am also one of three students who pushed a motion for a STEM curriculum to be included in high schools. I have received several opportunities from companies like Raytheon, Google, Northrup Grumman, Lockheed Martin and Boeing and not to add awards from members such as Isadore Hall III, Don Knabe, and John Boener. But most importantly, I can stand firm and say that today, I used all that doubt, un-acceptance, and low self esteem as a steam to power my dreams.

My Vision For The Millennial Generation

My vision for America's youth is truly broad and to some level quite extensive. To understand my vision, one has to understand where I come from. A little city filled with minority groups called Harbor City. Living in a neighborhood comprising predominately of Latino's, Caucasians, and Asians was never easy. Even though I was a bookworm who mostly indulged in philosophies, coding, and extracurricular activities, I was often a victim to prejudice. Before embracing who I am today, I was under mental en-slavery similar to that of a child who loved vivid color paintings but was always only given a monochrome color palette. But now, I realized that the only thing that separated a minority especially an African America from reaching the level of demonstrative innovation was opportunity. With that being said, my vision for the future is divided into three stages.

The first stage has to do with the rate of technological advances and it not being channeled in the right way. Moore's law can be applied to technology as it continues to evolve by double the amount if not triple. By 2040 more than 1.2 billion jobs would have sprung of in the fields of technology, which means that these jobs would need to be filled to increase the employment rate and also the nations productivity. Many students know what STEM education is, but don't have the right tools, teachers, and curriculum to make them want to go into that field. With that in- mind, the first stage of my vision for America's youth, seeks out to encourage and educate the modern day millennials into utilizing something that they already love, and harnessing it in a positive way.

The second stage of the vision for the millennial generation is environmental resource awareness. We as humans over the years have realized heavily of fossil fuels with average person having the notion that we would have these resources forever. We are exploiting hydrocarbons from the earth's crust, which have taken thousands and thousands of years to form and in the case of methane, millions. Nonetheless, in 2015, it is estimated that with the current rate of production; oil will run out in 53 years, natural gas in 53, and coal in 10. This means that we need to have an alternative sustainable and renewable source of energy and we need it fast. Our ecosystem is already about 90 solar powered. It is essentially a big red source of intense energy in "abundance". Why not then tap a little bit more into. Hence my second stage proposal for America's youth, the modern day millennial is the one who will suffer the most if we are to have a drastic change in the ecosystem. It is our duty then to be working up to that point on pushing for more of solar energy and less of fossil fuels to be consumed. Who knows, the millennials might be the generation to save the world.

The last but not least, the third stage has to do simply with the millennials themselves. Young people are the future. When we come together, we are a powerful force; our passion to make the world better, and skills to make real change will be the difference. When solving problems, we all come from different backgrounds as such, when we are solving problems, we should also address them with the same mentality and tackle them by considering everyone's perspective, background, and scenario.

That's a trait that my generation lacks and I feel that my generation has to work on that quite extensively in order for our future nation to prosper. We might come from different backgrounds, but in the end, we are all in the same.

The above we're just a few of the many snippets of the bigger picture I have for America's youth. The boys and girls club has helped me so much in a lot of my endeavors and i would be very overjoyed if I could give back what that joy feels like to less underprivileged individuals who are prominent to change the future.

Qualities That Define Me.

The qualities that define me are as follows:

A LEADER: Whether it was leading a group of students into the Oval Office to meet with president Obama, to starting a commission, to suggesting a proposal for a motion, I have always been the leader in each scenario.

A INSPIRATIONAL TROOPER: I am a person who is very hard working, has the mentality of a go-getter and is very positive minded. I love to mentor kids over the weekend and to my avail, they actually listen to me and implicate whatever bit of knowledge i tell them into their lives. I feel like it is my duty to leave an impact on this world

A TECH GURU: Everyone who knows me, knows me as a "IT guy". Throughout my life, I have met several individuals who have described my love for technology as a "prodigy-like gift". I learned JAVA, C##, and HTML when i was only ten, the principles of astronautical engineering when i was 15, and I continue to expand my knowledge in fields of technology.

A ENVIRONMENTALIST: I am a very big advocate for the environment and hence why I am pushing forward for STEM to be included into the curriculum so students will realize the impact that renewable and sustainable sources of energy can have on their future.

SELFLESS: I have always been quick to help someone by putting my "wants" to the side temporarily while i help that person. I find joy in helping others.

What I Stand For In The Hearts Of Those That Know Me Are:

CHANGE: I always like to see positive changes made in our society. Its just the mere thought that if changes occurred consistently, we would have advanced so far to live in a Utopia.

CONSISTENCE: I am someone who is very consistent when I do something. When I declare interest in something, I stand with my decision to the end. If I feel reluctant to do

it, I wouldn't engage in from the start. I encourage everyone around me to live with the same mentality, which will boost their personal productivity

My ultimate goals are

TO CREATE: I was born a creative person. I have so many blueprints in my room relating to astronomical engineering, consumer products, software development, societal construction, and so on all ready to be seen and utilized by the world.

I feel my purpose in life is:

TO INNOVATE: Ever since I was a child, I've always had crazy ideas on how I could change my world and influence it in positive way. I feel that we should (the ones that can) all have the honor to create positive innovation especially on the modern day society.