

SciTECH IDEAS IN ACTION

From Forsyth Tech to Medical School and Beyond

Adesanmi Ojo, M.D.

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November's SciTech lecturer was Dr. Adesanmi "Abel" Ojo who came to America from Nigeria with his parents and siblings in 2002. The family settled in the Triad region of North Carolina where his educational journey began. Dr. Ojo's lecture was entitled "From Forsyth Tech to Medical School and Beyond" and as the title implies he began this journey at Forsyth Tech because "this school is nearby and affordable". The Forsyth Tech Life Science chair and Ojo's mentor, Andy Salandy, introduced Dr. Ojo by sharing the humble dedication with which Adesanmi approached his coursework. When his Biology class was asked what their goals were, Adesanmi stated that he wanted to be a medical doctor. Mr. Salandy replied, "If you have the faith and passion to become a doctor, then you will succeed". Forsyth Tech provided Adesanmi with great educational opportunities from excellent teachers who care about their students.

Mr. Salandy was among several teachers and advisors who encouraged this young man while he earned his Associate of Science degree with a Pre-major in Biology. Ojo participated in Student Government, Alpha Mu Beta, Phi Theta Kappa, Relay for Life, March of Dimes, and was both tutored and tutored others in the Learning Center while at Forsyth Tech. In addition, he worked tirelessly with "Help the Helpless, Inc." (Helpthehelplessinc.org), a non-profit medical organization which organizes medical mission trips to third world countries.

He shared personal stories about how impressed he was that his dad, a highly-regarded nurse anesthetist, was known by name when he entered Nigerian villages and he knew the names of the villagers. "I want to be that kind of man for my patients and be known for going out of my way to help others even though, like everyone else, I am not immune to life's difficulties." Ten years ago he knew he wanted to be a medical doctor, but he also knew that the road would be difficult; he would have to work hard and stick to it. Adesanmi encouraged the audience to "keep hope alive". He advised students to create a plan leading to their goals and take advantage of tutors and review courses when preparing for tests in class, as well as those required for the professional school of your choice like the MCAT for Medical School or the LCAT for Law School. Dr. Ojo told the audience that "no matter what you do, just put people at peace and that is when you will find peace."

Dr. Ojo concluded by speaking about his experience in medical school. He was admitted in 2007 to the American University of Antigua College of Medicine in Antigua where their motto is: BELIEVE, BEGIN and BECOME. It is with these three powerful words that Dr. Ojo became a medical doctor in June of 2012. In addition to pursuing the required medical residency, Adesanmi is working toward his MBA at Plymouth State University pursuing a degree in General Management and Health Care Administration. Dr. Ojo was an enthusiastic speaker who easily drew the audience into his story with a perfect balance of humor, advice, encouragement and gratitude. Dr. Ojo's entire presentation can be seen online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF6IHNFtB4A&feature=youtu.be>