

SCHAUVONNE PERREIRA'S REFLECTION

Scrolling through social media, I saw the advertisement for eligible persons to fill out an application to become a mentee under the Commonwealth Mentorship Scheme. Upon reading the objectives of this program which included the empowerment of young women I knew right away that I had to take advantage of this opportunity. I signed up even though a little part of me was skeptical as to whether I would even be considered. A few months past and I had already forgotten about the program until one day I saw an email that stated, I was chosen to be a part of the program. I was elated with a myriad of questions floating through my head as to how I would make contact and schedule meetings with my mentor. After being notified that my mentor was from Canada, I was very perplexed. How could I be in Guyana and have a mentor in Canada? How is that even possible?

So I decided to do a simple google search of my mentor, Mrs Sherry Chamberlain to learn more about the person I was paired with. I was amazed as to how accomplished my mentor was. This alone was empowering. She was an entrepreneur, held prominent positions in prestigious organizations, she volunteered; she was basically everything that I ever imagined myself being and more. Reading about my mentor online, I felt like I was reading a combination of my future and my dreams which collaborated to make an exceptional woman.

My first email to my mentor was read over several times by me before I press send to ensure that all my grammar was correct and to ensure I created a good first impression. Time went by and I kept in contact with my mentor who turned out to be very friendly, understanding and full of great advice. Being new to mentorship, I didn't know what to expect, how to behave and what to do but through conversations I realized that I didn't need to be strictly formal with my mentor. I realized that I could speak to her about things that affected me and she was very willing to give advice.

When I look around me, I see people living their lives as though someone was forcing them to live and I could not understand why they don't strive for better. Due to this, I sometimes felt like I'm crazy for wanting to be great and that my dreams are just dreams and that I would end up living the same life as the masses but being a part of the Commonwealth Women's Mentorship Scheme I have met exceptional people from around the world and even some located locally. Seeing young women making a difference in their lives and the lives of other's shows that people are truly amazing and are capable of whatever they put their mind to and as my favourite quote from Napoleon Hill says, "Whatever the mind of man can believe and conceive, it can achieve."

My philosophy is that everything happens for a reason and I believe that being a part of this program and being paired with Mrs Chamberlain was meant to happen to show me that my dreams can bear fruits in the future. The best part is that, Mrs. Chamberlain and I hope to keep in contact even after the end of this program. Isn't she the best?