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Multimedia Storytelling  
Professor Chris Evans

**Revised :**

In this revised version of my story adjustments were made to enhance comprehension, aligning the language with a 5th to 8th-grade reading level, given its initial composition at a college level. The incorporation of proper attribution was essential to fortify the credibility of the information and mitigate any semblance of subjectivity. Notably, efforts were dedicated to eliminate traces of personal perspective and ensure the uniform use of past tense throughout the narrative, recognizing that the audience engages with the story retrospectively.

**Bridging the Silence: Howard Students on the Unspoken Conversations Before College**

Howard University students emphasize the role of trial and error in their extracurricular activities.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, AAP.org; as the world evolves, comprehensive sex education and open household dialogue become increasingly important for young adults.

Upon entering Howard University, students express a notable desire for pre-college discussions to enhance their preparedness.

Junior Jacqueline James reflects on the muted conversations at home, where attempts to discuss relationships were met with resistance.

"For me, these conversations were muted. I would ask my mom for advice or try to bring things up to her like a boy and she'd shut the conversation down pretty quickly. Her excuse was because I wasn't doing anything; it then shouldn't matter," said James.

The lack of open dialogue at home becomes a recurring theme for Howard University students, impacting their experiences.

Sophomore Angel Korkor shares her challenges in opening up to her mother due to unresolved trauma her mother experienced in her youth.

Highlighting the need for proactive discussions before college shifts.

"My mother had her trauma she's never healed from, so there wasn't open dialogue between the two of us. The first time I tried to open up to my mother, she became defensive and didn't know how to talk to me," said Korkor.

Jordan Everett, a health educator at Howard University Student Health Center, emphasizes the importance of starting these talks early to give students the essential knowledge they need before dealing with challenges.

"Based on my interactions with the students, it seems like much of what they know comes from experiences. By the time they come to see us, something has already happened," said Everett.

Students like Korkor and James, who faced challenges on their own, now see independence as a defining trait, showcasing the outcomes of trial and error.

"I went through a lot of trial and error, I cried alone a lot as well. I've learned to be grateful for those moments because they made me independent. It made it easy for me to walk away from others because I've always been alone anyways," said Korkor.

Everett continues to emphasize the importance of breaking the cycle of silence in families and adapting open communication.

"In my opinion, it's crucial these conversations are best had in the household first. Ensuring this information is shared at an appropriate age and level is equally important and recommended," said Everett.

In recognizing the impact of familial silence, students express the belief that open conversations at home would have seriously improved their preparedness for college and adulthood.

"I believe if my mother and I did have these conversations, or if she simply took the time to explain things to me, I would've been in much better shape and wouldn't have had to learn so much on my own," said James.

Everett suggests students go to the health clinic for help, highlighting its importance as a vital place for helpful talks and support.

"Come See us at the health clinic, make your appointment, and know that we accept walk-ins every Wednesday and Friday," said Everett.

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Students are encouraged by this invitation to seek support and have conversations that go beyond the boundaries of familial silence.

Howard University works together to remove obstacles in sex education, intending to empower students with confidence, readiness, and community support as they start their college journeys.