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Nash Helps Enroll His Mother in College

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- Councilman Troy Nash knows the value of a good education and determination. After years of persistence, he convinced his three older brothers to enroll in college at UMKC. But still there was one family member Nash felt could benefit from a further education. So he persuaded his mother, Charlotte Ward, to take the test for her GED. And now seven years later, she is ready to take the next step. Nash accompanied his mother to UMKC last week to register for fall classes.

Ward says she is looking forward to the new challenge. "I'm very excited. It will be something different for me." She will pursue a Bachelors Degree in Liberal Arts. She says being a bit older than many of her classmates will be difficult in the beginning. "I feel a little strange with the younger kids. They may think I'm one of the teachers. But I'm sure I'll feel better when I get started."

Nash said helping his mother enroll in college was a special moment. "It has always been a dream of mine to have my mother work at a college degree. This will give her an opportunity to learn and display intellect I know she has."

Nash is a strong advocate of education. The city councilman is convinced that education is the only path towards success, and that the opportunities that he has been granted are all the result of the education that he has received. He completed his undergraduate work in economics from Wesley College. He also holds a master's degree in economics and a law degree from UMKC. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in economics.

"This was the next logical step. My brothers and I met for a year and studied together before they enrolled in school. The time had come for my mother to be a part of the family tradition: the classroom," Nash said.

Ward joined the other freshman August 20th for the first day of classes.