

# MERCY SACKOR

By: Makayla Maignan

From Philly to  
Greensboro:  
A Journey of  
Self-Discovery

Leaving the comfort of home is never easy. For some, it's a leap of faith, a bold step towards growth and self-discovery. For Mercy Sackor, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, making the decision to leave her hometown and pursue her dreams at N.C. A&T State University (A&T) was a defining moment—one she now considers among her greatest accomplishments.

Mercy's journey began in North East Philadelphia, where she was born and raised. After graduating high school, she enrolled at Temple University, eager to embark on her college journey. However, fate had other plans in store. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic during her senior year of high school and into her freshman year of college brought unforeseen challenges. Commuting to campus and working in retail became part of her daily routine as she navigated the uncertainties of the pandemic.

Despite her best efforts, Mercy's

first attempt to gain admission to A&T didn't yield the desired outcome. Undeterred, she decided to try again the following year. The decision wasn't easy.

Leaving behind the familiar streets of Philadelphia meant stepping into the unknown—a prospect that initially filled Mercy with doubt. Should she stay and complete her degree at Temple University, or take a chance on a new adventure in Greensboro, North Carolina?

In the end, Mercy chose to take the leap. Reapplying to A&T proved to be the catalyst for a transformative journey. With an acceptance letter in hand, she packed her bags and set off for Greensboro. The move marked a fresh start—a chance to carve out her path in a new environment. "The only person I knew in Greensboro was my older sister," Mercy recalls. "But ultimately, I knew it was time for a change

Fast forward to the present day, and Mercy's journey at A&T has been nothing short of transformative. From being the dance captain of the AfroElites dance team to becoming

ing a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and a reporter for Aggie News, Mercy has embraced the opportunities that her new environment has presented. "I never imagined accomplishing all that I have," Mercy reflects. "But I am so glad that I took the step to enter a new environment."

While Mercy's transition to A&T was not without its challenges—homesickness and loneliness being among them—she found solace in the supportive community she discovered on campus. "Some of the challenges I faced when moving to Greensboro included homesickness and loneliness," Mercy shares. "But those feelings didn't last long because I found friends who transferred like me, and I discovered the organization I would later join, AAC."

Being involved in various organizations, including serving as the head dance captain of the AfroElites, has played a pivotal role in Mercy's college experience. "If I wasn't involved in extracurricular activities outside of school, I don't think my time at A&T would be as successful as it is now," Mercy admits. "Being a part of these activities allowed me to balance different aspects of my life and gave me the chance to explore new things."

As she continues to flourish at A&T, Mercy actively mentors incoming students, sharing her wisdom and experiences to help them navigate their own journeys. Her involvement in campus initiatives, coupled with her academic achievements, solidifies her reputation as a leader among her peers. Mercy's dedication to personal growth and community engagement embodies the spirit of A&T's ethos, leaving an indelible mark on the university's legacy.

