



Dayshon Moore
Rockford University
ACI Peer Mentoring Program



Dayshon Moore visited [Rockford University](#), Rockford, Illinois, at the suggestion of a university football coach who visited his high school. "It just felt like home," says the Moore, a junior this year at Rockford, majoring in exercise science. He also plays left tackle on the Rockford football team, which will play its season in spring 2021 due to pandemic restrictions this fall.

In high school, Moore says he worked often with the school's athletic trainer and developed an interest in exercise science. "I plan on becoming a physical therapist as well as a personal trainer," says Moore, who is from Bolingbrook, Illinois. Moore says his mother earned a college degree when he was in middle school, and other siblings have attended college. When Moore graduates, he will be the first of the four siblings to graduate.

[Watch the video!](#)



Moore joined the Men of Color Mentorship (MCM) Program at Rockford, a part of ACI's Peer Mentoring Program network, to help ensure success in college. He first joined as a mentee at the suggestion of Dr. Karen Walker, MCM program coordinator and dean of academic support, Center for Learning Strategies, and is now a mentor to first-generation students in their early years in college. "The Peer Mentoring Program has done so much for me," Moore says. "It is one of the reasons I'm still at this school. My freshman year, I was having trouble with finances. It was almost to the point where I wouldn't be able to return. Dr. Walker helped connect me to the right people that I needed to talk to, to get that figured out." Along the way, he says the program has taught him things such as study skills and instilled in him a drive "to succeed for myself," Moore says.

For donors who make peer mentoring possible, Moore says he would tell them about the program's impact for students like him. "The whole point of this program is to help people like me make it through college. Without this program I would have been one of those people that dropped out and never came back," he says.

Away from the classroom, Moore is a peer tutor for athletics, working with football team members. He is a "Reggie," a Regent Experience Guide, which help guide freshmen and serve as orientation leaders. You'll also find him working at the front desk in the student center, renting equipment to students and answering questions. Finally, Moore is an active participant in SAGA, the university's Sexuality and Gender Alliance that advocates for equality and respect for all.