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## **Brilliant and Driven: 19-Year-Old Nigerian Earns College Degree**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO** -- Most college students start school at the age of 18 and graduate four years later. But for one [Cedarville University](#) senior majoring in computer science, he's getting a major head start.

David-Bryne Adedeji from Lagos, Nigeria is set to graduate Saturday, May 6 from Cedarville's [computer science](#) program at the young age of 19.

But it wasn't always smooth sailing for Adedeji. Studying at the college level while being significantly younger than his peers was often difficult. During his sophomore year, he experienced unexpected challenges that made him question his path.

Adedeji, who now lives in Aurora, Illinois with his mother and brother, didn't come from the average family. Growing up, Adedeji was always pushed to pursue education, and at age 15, Adedeji and his mother and brother moved to the United States so he could finish 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

One year later, the recent high school graduate was applying to colleges and universities. It was his young age that hindered him from attending some of the colleges he was looking at.

That wasn't the case at Cedarville University, a Christian university in southwest Ohio. Rather, Cedarville accepted him immediately, causing him to take a closer look at the [school of engineering and computer science](#) and consider its programs.

A brilliant student, Adedeji came to Cedarville in 2019, at the age of 16. He decided to major in computer science and thoroughly enjoyed the rigorous coursework. It was the challenging courses and interactive lab work that confirmed he made the right decision.

"It was hard coming to Cedarville that young, though," Adedeji admitted. "Looking back, I definitely would have done things differently."

Adedeji's goals and trajectory changed after his family was rocked by the sudden death of Adedeji's father. The future suddenly seemed uncertain.

"I went into survival mode," said Adedeji. "I was thinking, 'I'll just drop out, I'll work to support my mom, we've got to get my brother through college.' But I remember my mother saying, 'Don't worry, God has a plan and if he wants it to work out, it will.'"

Despite the personal challenges, Adedeji was able to finish school without missing any semesters. And, once he leaves the commencement stage, he will move into his first career position with 66degrees, a leading Google Cloud Premier partner in Chicago, Illinois. Adedeji's job will enable him to work remotely while supporting his family and saving money to begin his own philanthropic work.

At times, Adedeji had felt his father's academic pressure on him was a negative factor in his life. But after his father's passing, it became his mission and motivation to live up to his father's legacy.

Through hardships, he learned valuable lessons about life.

"My dad was all about helping others and equipping them to succeed," said Adedeji. "I want to emulate that in my life, going forward."

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 5,082 undergraduate, graduate, and dual-enrolled high school students in more than 175 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs and departments such as [the department of engineering and computer science](#), high graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and the #4 national ranking by the Wall Street Journal for student engagement. For more information about the University, visit [cedarville.edu](http://cedarville.edu).

Written by Marielle Payton

Photo: David-Bryne Adedeji