



Jameelah Rahman, 19, CLEVELAND

Jameelah Rahman is surrounded by success. Her mother has two master's degrees. Her stepfather is a doctor. Her sisters graduated from Howard University and Ohio University and went on to their own careers. Three brothers joined the military.

As Rahman acknowledged with a sweep of her hands, "It's all high expectations, all around me." And she has high expectations for herself, too — as well as a plan.

At Cleveland School of the Arts, where she studied dance, Rahman was given great opportunities to learn and perform, but she says her academic preparation might have been stronger. So she's diving into studies at Tri-C with her sights on early childhood education and a goal of earning her associate degree here, then transferring to Howard.

She still takes dance classes, through Karamu House, and hopes to have a professional dance career. She loves ballet, contemporary dance and jazz. Everyone needs a backup plan, however, so she wants to train for a career that doesn't depend so much on good luck and strong bones.

"My plan is to get straight A's," she said. "I'm going to have to work at it."