

Video/Audio Transcript

Video Title: Ameerah McLean Poem - The Fourth Floor

Date: July 18, 2017

Running Time: 4:09

- 0:00** [Music begins to play as the Guelph-Humber logo appears in the middle of the screen with a white background.]
- 0:04** [A wide shot of Ameerah McLean is shown sitting on a stone bench in the park wearing purple. She says, "In many ways, life is a lot like the University of Guelph-Humber. In life, we start off in one place, with the goal at the end of the line. At the University of Guelph-Humber, we start off on the first floor and we are trying to get to the fourth floor."]
- 0:14** [A close up shot of Ameerah McLean is shown: "There are a lot of ways to get to the fourth floor. We could take the spiral staircase, we could take the elevators, or we could take any of the four staircases located at each corner of the University of Guelph-Humber. We can also go outside the building, into the LRC building and loop around to the University of Guelph-Humber that way."]
- 0:32** [A wide shot of Ameerah is shown: "Of course, we don't always go straight to the fourth floor. Sometimes we stick around on the first floor for a while, socializing, making new friends and gathering the information we need to succeed. Sometimes we stop on the second floor, to have a break, rest recharge or ask for help. That said, we may climb all the way to the third floor from the first floor, and realize the third floor has everything we were looking for after all."]
- 0:56** [A close up shot of Ameerah McLean is shown: "We might get to the second floor, and decide that we don't want to go to the fourth floor after all and proceed to make our way through Humber College. We might go up to the third floor, double back to the second, and make our way to the fourth from there. We might take the stairs to the second floor and take the elevator to the fourth floor. And we might make it to the fourth floor and realize that we wanted to go to Dairy

Queen all along. And still more of us may make it to the fourth floor and realize that the destination wasn't the point, the journey was.”]

1:25 [A wide shot of Ameerah is shown: “My point is this”]

1:27 [A close up shot of Ameerah McLean is shown: “Many of us started post-secondary with a goal in mind at the end of the tunnel.”]

1:30 [A wide shot of Ameerah is shown: “For some of us it might be grad school. For some of us it might be finding a partner or having kids, and for some of us it was the journey, the chance to grow that drew us there. Most of us have a set plan before starting, for what we want to do with our university degree, where we plan to go after University and how exactly we are going to get there. But just as we may find the elevators out of service, we may find setbacks in our lives that force us to take a different direction, or maybe get where were going in a different way.”]

1:59 [A close up shot of Ameerah McLean is shown: “It isn't always about speed. While some of us may sprint from the first floor to the fourth floor to be on time for class, life is very different, life is more than just a series of timelines and due dates. Just as we can get to the second floor and choose to cross the bridge to go to the cafe, some of us will get to a point where maybe we don't want to finish University, or maybe we want to finish University, and go straight to work instead of grad school. That's totally okay. Maybe we get to our third year in one program, and realize we want to switch programs and have to go back a year, just as we may double back to the second floor. And for those of you who sprint from the first floor to the fourth and find your happiness with the journey being done with, kudos to you! There is no “correct speed”, go as fast as makes you happy.”]

2:47 [A wide shot of Ameerah is shown: “We might make it to the second floor okay, and realize we are not yet prepared to go to class. Just as we will go to the desk to book a workshop with the LSP's, in life we may find that were not ready to take the next step, and need to take some time to prepare ourselves for the next set

of stairs, or challenges as it were. And often the things we want in life will change. And maybe you realize, as you are nearing the end of your post-secondary journey, that while you may finish the last step you are taking, your perfect happiness, your “fourth floor” is in a new direction entirely, one that you never thought you would tread.”]

3:19 [A close up shot of Ameerah McLean is shown: “Most of us want to be happy at the end of the day. Most of us believe that post-secondary and graduate studies are the only way to happiness.”]

3:28 [A wide shot of Ameerah is shown: “Sometimes were so busy running up to the fourth floor, we don’t notice the beauty that’s happening on the first, second and third floors. We’re so busy chasing one thing that we don’t get to take advantage of the beauty and opportunities between our starting and ending post-secondary.”]

3:43 [A close up shot of Ameerah McLean is shown: “You see what I’m going with this, don’t you? There are many ways to get to the fourth floor from the University of Guelph-Humber’s entrance. Just as in life, there are many ways to reach happiness from the moment you realize you want it. But whether you go straight there, switch directions, or find a new location entirely: I sincerely hope, that one day, all of us will find our own way to our perfect “fourth floor”.]

4:09 [Video fades to black.]