By Nnamdi Igwe, an 11th grade student at the Learning Center

Nnamdi Igwe’s Speech continued – “Every day, we are reminded to always be polite to each other and our seniors. We are taught to always ask for things in a respectful manner. And when we receive it, we should say thank you. We are shown how to abstain from bad behaviors such as fighting and cussing because these acts get us nowhere in life. Right in this building the future generation of our community and state is being taught the foundations of having good character. We are striving to reach the top, and we all know that one’s character plays a vital role in achieving greatness. It molds us in a way that is acceptable by society.

Intelligence. Due to the Learning Center’s partnership with Warren County Public Schools and Bowling Green City Schools, we have improved our literacy skills. We spend 20 minutes each day reading any piece of literature we can find from the library here in the building, and with this, we are able to track our reading progress. Through the Western Kentucky University partnership, we had the opportunity to tour WKU’s campus and were exposed to the tremendous benefits of quality education. Personally, I intend to be a pediatrician and was able to learn about Western’s pre-medicine program. In addition, There are two computer labs here in the Center where we do research for school projects. We also receive homework assistance from the WKU students here who are extremely helpful in many ways.

Resources. The Learning Center provides various resources for us through its partnerships with several organizations and educational institutions. For example, thanks to the Housing Authority’s Chinese Program with the WKU Confucius Institute, I was able to attend the Chinese Bridge Camp in Beijing, China. This experience gave me an insight into Chinese culture and traditions; and I must say it was the experience of a lifetime.

Character, intellect and resources. These three things are essential in reaching for the stars, in achieving something that seems impossible. I am entirely honored to stand here today and say that the Housing Authority of Bowling Green WROTE Foundation is helping teenagers like myself and children develop these attributes in order to reach for the stars and bring about progress in our community, state, and nation. On behalf of the students here, I would like to thank the Housing Authority of Bowling Green, the Warren County and Bowling Green school systems, and most importantly the Government of the Commonwealth of Kentucky for giving us the opportunity to reach for the stars through the immense efforts of the WROTE Foundation. Thank you.”

NOTE: Nnamdi Igwe recently recited the Dr. Martin Luther King “I have a dream” speech for several hundred community onlookers in Bowling Green. There he received a standing ovation for his poise, ability to articulate, and his passionate expression.