PACE Honor for Academics

Ben Koussoube graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting in December 2016 where he had the honor of serving as a Marshal on behalf of the Lindner College of Business at graduation. While attending UC full-time, he also worked full-time to support his family. As a result of his academic achievement, he obtained an internship with Ernst & Young and was later offered a full-time position.

He came to the US from Burkina Faso, a country located in West Africa and is the Vice President of the Burkinabe Association of Cincinnati. English is Ben’s 3rd language after French and Moore. Earning an American degree has always been a dream that he shared with his father since high school. Having in mind that every child can do better than their parents, Ben worked hard since primary school to make his parents proud of him and continued the hard work with the hope that his children will embrace his path. He had to overcome some struggles to achieve his goal. For example, Ben was sometimes denied to join study groups because of his lack of fluency in English. He then decided that a language barrier should no longer be an excuse for him to underperform. With his parents and children as inspiration, he worked hard to earn a 3.87 GPA while working a full-time job to prove to those who did not want him in their study group that they were wrong and knowledge should not be correlated to language.

His strategy to become successful was to plan his life as a project with a long-term goal supported by smaller sub goals. Ben always did a SWOT Analysis of himself. Everything was new in this country so he got the idea to find a mentor, someone who succeeded in his field and was willing to coach him.