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“My mother taught me that if I want something I need to go get it,” said the fifth-year journalism major. “And Cal Poly taught me how to do that.”

Woodard hasn’t looked back. Instead, Cal Poly has forced her to look inward and ahead, continually pushing her out of her comfort zone and toward greater success. “Since coming here,” she said, “I’ve learned to trust myself and my abilities.”

When she walked into her first Cal Poly class, she said, she was overwhelmed by her professors’ expectations that she work independently. “They expected me to find information on my own; they put faith in students to be self-directed,” she said. “That was new for me. I wasn’t just being spoon-fed lectures and text.”

But along with Cal Poly’s hands-on approach to learning, she said, helping her excel, she said. In response, her GPA rose to 3.0.

“I’m a visual learner,” she said. “Learning how things work in the classroom and then actually doing it myself has been great.”

Learn by Doing forces her out of her comfort zone, she said, helping her grow as a person. She cites her Cal Poly TV class as an example.

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GOING AFTER IT

Mustang Brittany Woodard Learns Success Often Means Leaving the Comfort Zone

STACIA MOMBURG

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