

Meet Nouman Kante,

SUU Student Body President



Nouman Kante, SUU's newly elected student body president, has lived a life filled with adversity and sacrifice, but through hard work, a lot of hope, and a smile that stretches from ear to ear, he has triumphed.

His story begins in Ouelessebougou, Mali, West Africa, where he was born to parents who raised cotton, rice, corn and potatoes as a means of providing for their 19 children.

When he was four years old, Nouman discovered that his parents could not read or write and so he made the bold decision to leave his family in search of a better life, one that included an education. He spent the next nine years homeless, drifting from place to place, and relying on the generosity of the Malian people for his survival.

At the age of 13, Nouman had a chance encounter with a politician and entrepreneur named Yeah Samake who was immediately impressed with the teen's enthusiasm and passion for education. Yeah took Nouman in, became his legal guardian, and made

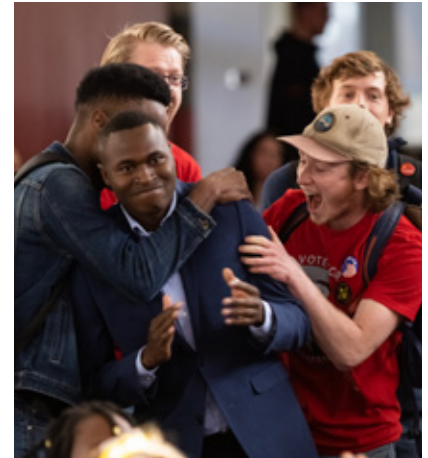
arrangements for Nouman to enroll in Utah's Wasatch Academy in Mount Pleasant, where he excelled and earned his high school degree in 2016.

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It was during a high school track & field meet that Nouman discovered SUU and fell in love with the school. He enrolled three years later and will graduate spring 2021 with a degree in business management and a minor in philosophy.

Nouman says he ran for student body president because he believes in service and in the importance of being a leader when opportunity presents itself.

“Today is the perfect day, wherever you are, if you have an opportunity for a leadership position you should embrace it,” he says.



He wants to be a catalyst for enhanced collaboration among SUU's more than 100 clubs and organizations, resulting in strong connections between international and domestic students and better understanding among an increasingly diverse student body.

With the coronavirus pandemic a concern across campus and beyond, Nouman is encouraging his fellow students to reach out to others, share something meaningful, and even ask for help.

“The problem just doesn't become personal; it is a global thing,” he says. “It is a shared situation that we need to help each other through.”

Nouman says he stands as proof that anything in life is possible; not just because he has seen it in his life, but because he has seen it in the lives of others.

“We need to keep trying and accepting the challenge and really keep the hope, not just in ourselves but in each other,” he says. “We can be the hope that the world has never seen before.”