**Edson O’Neale Bio**

When you see Edson O’Neale walk into a room your first perception might be that he is a strong, confident, empowered man, but there’s more to Edson than meets the eye. His stature may seem imposing to you, but he has felt small. His voice is clear as a bell, but he’s often felt unheard. He is very present, but he has been made to feel invisible. Yet, through it all he’s tried his best, to be his best.

He’s overcome what he’s felt.

He’s reshaped his narrative.

The why, the how and the way, he shares in his talks about leadership, bullying and history. Compelled to rewrite your story and change perceptions? Work with Edson today and discover:

1. Dynamic thought leader focused on values and self-worth.
2. Your supportive accountability partner for achieving future goals.
3. A champion of consistent growth.

Read more about Edson….

When you meet Edson O’Neale you would think he is a strong, confident person, but what you do not know is the demons he fights with all the time when it comes to his self-worth. Edson constantly questions his self-value and what he means to the world. From this questioning, he has previously gone through depression, thoughts of suicide, and a lack of self-confidence. There were times Edson thought this world would be better off without him, but because of the people he surrounds himself with and the will not to give up, he was able to push through. This will comes from his background and culture growing in the beautiful island of St. Croix, the U.S. Virgin Islands. His Trinidadian parents instilled a pride to always remember where you come from and who you are. That belief is what always keeps Edson going and giving back to his community.

Growing up, Edson was bullied, made fun of, and never felt accepted. Edson always wanted to be popular and special, but as he got older, Edson realized being popular is not important, and if you want to be important let your actions speak for itself. The light bulb finally came on in college where he realized his life matters and he realized the leader that he was destined to be. As a college student he was an outstanding student leader involved in Student Government, Campus Activities, Student Organizations, and of course Greek life. Edson crossed the burning sands of the Rho Xi chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. in the spring of 2004 and never looked back. He served in several roles in the chapter such as Secretary Community Service chair, Educational chair, Vice President, and ultimately chapter President. During his tenure as chapter president, their organization won Fraternity of the Year which was one of his proudest moments in college. Edson graduated with a degree in Sport Management from Saint Leo University in December of 2007. After working in sports for a couple of years, he realized he needed to further his education and went back to school in 2009 where he became a Graduate Assistant at Nova Southeastern University in programming. Working there, he realized his passion for working with students. He graduated with a Master of Science Degree in Leadership in December of 2010, and after a long hard search, he served as an advisor for a small for-profit medical school. After two years he got the opportunity to come back home to Saint Leo University to work in Student Activities.

During his six and half years at Saint Leo University, he started off as the Assistant Director of Student Activities and then got promoted to the Director of Student Activities. Edson had the privilege of serving in many roles advising Student Government, the Campus Activities Board, Student Organizations, and Fraternity and Sorority Life. He also worked with leadership development, civic engagement, and the mascot team. Edson currently serves as a Student Success Manager for ThriveDX advising students through their journey in completing their certificate program in the tech field such as Cybersecurity, Digital Marketing, etc. Even though he is no longer at Saint Leo University, he gained so much experience during his time there and it is there he realized he had a story to share.  Now he wishes to share his story with students everywhere. Edson’s background of getting bullied, having suicidal thoughts, and constantly questioning his self-worth will resonate with students. Edson wants students to know that they are not alone and he wants to help you to become the champion that you are meant to be.