Conversations on Expectations Final

Conversations on Expectations Post Incarceration.mp3

Transcript

00:00:14 Intro: David

From the Greater Boston area, you are listening to MyTern Conversations brought to you by the Tufts University Education and Reentry Network. MyTern. These are stories of life during and after incarceration, told by people who have lived it and are working to overcome the odds.

00:00:45 Jovon

My name is Jovon. I was incarcerated for about 9 years in state prison, and I also served about a year in DYS as well. And I went through a lot through that journey, especially going to prison at 17 years old. But it was definitely a good experience. I learned a lot about myself and a lot about people. Just...got a good understanding of life in general during that bid. And I'm one of those people, I like to have real conversations about things I like to speak about anything. I'm not shy. I'm open just to chop it up and build. I'm just always looking forward to have real life conversations and said I come from Brockton, too. I come from a good Cape Verdean family. I just believe in positive energy. Energy is everything.

00:01:34 Kentel

My name is Kentel. Um...I spent 19 years in prison, so I went in when I was 16, and then I got out when I was 35, and it's just been a... a lot of adjustments I've had to make since I've been home. So now I'm here. Doing this MyTern program and then I'm gonna finish my education here at Tufts in the fall, and it's just been a struggle, you know, as far as reentry goes. But, you know, I'm figuring out as, as I go along. I come from a family of five siblings, two older brothers, and two sisters. And you know, yeah.

00:02:22 Daries

My name is Daries. I'm from Boston. Mass. But I was born in Mississippi. Jackson, to be exact. I moved up here with my mother and three brothers when I was about 3 years old.

My mother wanted a better life from the poverty we was used to back home. We settled in a town called Dorchester, the biggest borough in Boston, and instantly I seen violence and gang activity.

00:02:49 Kentel

Alright, so we're going to talk about expectations a little bit. And the question is what is expectations you feel people have on you in reentry?

I feel like the biggest one I had coming home is like I said before, I had two older brothers and... which was pretty much the like the most influential in my life because I didn't grow up with my father. I grew with my stepfather and I felt like he wasn't that much of a role model, so that was a kind of a weird situation. And I pretty much was following behind my brothers, and while I was in there while I was in prison, one of my brothers got killed in 2004, which is like a year after I got locked up. And then the other one got killed in 2010. So for me, like my biggest expectation, coming home was just like staying alive. Because we just had, like put my family through so much, and so I... I actually remember one of my friends telling me... he was like he was just talking about my mother in general. And then after like my my second brother had got killed he was like, yo man, I'm just tired of, like, tired of seeing that look on your mother's face, because he had been there after I had got sentenced to life and he had been there when my other brother got killed and he had been there when this one had got killed. So he was just like he was there, like to witness all of it and just, you know. Repeat it back to me as how he was experiencing that. So yeah, my my biggest expectation coming home was like like my mother's expectation supersedes like everything else. And it just was staying alive. It sounds simple, but...It's easier said than done. You know, I'm saying cause the city is kind of crazy. So it's like learning how to stay out of the way. It's learning how to stay out of the way and putting myself in better situations where I know I'm not even going to...I don't know be a liability or whatever, so yeah.

00:04:49 Daries

And see that's that's that's that's crazy because that's totally like, you know, that's that's obviously you know that's the expectation you know especially coming from prison. But you know mines is just so used to like taking care of people and you know usually being the one who. You know who had money, who had the weed ,who had this, who had the car, who had this, People were so used to me having so I just think, you know, like: “oh yeah, he got this.” And then when I got out and it's like, yeah, I'm not selling drugs. I'm not doing that no more. It's just like, wow, you’ve changed, you know, I'm saying so. It's expectations. It is definitely, you know, I'm saying, like, my mom has a different expectation of you. My

mother wants me to stop going to jail. You know, I'm saying some people would I call my friends. I'd rather call them associates... they probably hope I get back into hustling. You know why? Because I make them money. You know what? I'm saying so, I I just think it's...you know, as far as expectations, I just think like depending on the person as far as in your life who it is, it could be your girl, it could be your brother, it could be your sister.... whatever. Whoever it is. I just think that they might have a different expectation for you. It's going to be everybody's gonna have a different expectation for you. That's just what I think.

00:06:03 Jovon

Nah, facts. I definitely agree with you, bro. Especially like us. After doing all that time just coming back to society like we have all these different expectations, expectations that we have our own selves and expectation that people just have on us and like you said, you if you expect your, I mean your mom expects you to do right while others expect you to do wrong, it's just like the levels of expectation. Same thing with you, brody, how you said just staying alive like this shit’s really real. Like these expectations, And it causes, like a lot of stress. And I could speak to similar to both of you brothers, but something that I experienced coming home, expectations was just dealing with my family or being back in society around friends, everyone just expected me to, like pick up fast. Like I was incarcerated for 10 years. I don't know how to use an iPhone bro at all, I didn't know how to use the apps, don't know how to use a computer. I don't know how to play PS5. I’m playing my cousin he’s whooping my ass in 2K like it's not even fair. But you guys are playing this. I don't know how to play. They’re like yo, come on bro, you suck. I’m like I wanna play bro teach you how to play this \*\*\*\*, but people will just behind these expectations. Even with the phone will go somewhere. I'm like, yo, how do I do this? And they’re like, what do you mean? We’re out at a restaurant I'm like yo, where’s the menu at and they say you gotta barcode it. Like, what the hell you mean barcode? What's that? Barscan, barcode. I'm like, damn man. It's like I was gone for so long, and then everyone just expects you to know everything. And even with these new cars started driving like bro, I don't know this push to start is new to me. This backup cam, all the new censors and everyone's expects like yo, you should know what's when it starts going off you should hear...you should know. How was I supposed to know that? I was just in the joint people don’t understand like we're in the joint with limited, you know, like. We don't have access, to what we have access to now. We don't have new technology. We don't have no up-to-date TV's, not up to date information or technology that we could play with and people don't understand, like when you're really out of society it has a real mental hold on, you said everything to us is new. And I always have to explain that to people like, you know, I'm learning things. And even with me being home for two years, there'll be certain things I struggle with. Just like I'm about to eat, I will try to just dog my food, thinking I had this expectation that I only got 5

minutes. Like I'm still in jail at Chow Hall, that you'll hold on. I only got to see him all the time, but then I got to catch myself like, hold on. Let me just chill. I'm not in jail I could take my time. The food ain’t going nowhere. So it's just crazy like how that expectation just meet, that comes from all sides. Like you said, I got... I had friends that was expecting me to do wrong, jump back into the negativity with them. I have family that was expecting me to do wrong as well. Then I have family that's expecting me to do well and then you got some people that they don't even know what to say. When I tell them what I'm actually doing like that, I'm actually doing good. I'm going to school that I'm working with. I don't know if they'll be happy for you or not. Like, well, like, they're really going to say, like, well, what, you didn't expect this though, right?

00:09:02 Daries

No, they didn't expect that. That's the curveball.

00:09:09 Jovon

But, someone will be quick to have these negative like expectations of you only even the positive ones that come, but it's crazy how the positives like outweigh... I mean the negatives outweigh the positives. You'll have that little circle there with you, that got these expectations that's willing to go through there with you all the way step by step to get where you at. But then you got other people that say, yeah whatever, just want to go about their day in a rush. Like, yeah, just like kick rocks. You feel me?

00:09:32 Kentel

Yeah. And I feel like it's so over...It's it's overwhelming. It's when you come home with, like, all these different expectations from different people. So like, even like before I, before I wrapped up it was, oh, alright. So were you planning on living? Oh, so where you planning on on working? Oh, and we got Hillary. Oh, so you going to come to MyTern? So it's like all these different things that are like and I don't, I don't feel like people mean like harm when they're like, like voicing their concern or like voicing like whatever they're like saying. But it's just, I don't know, they people ain't thinking about how like you're experiencing all the different. I don't know that it's a lot.

00:10:16 Daries

It's a lot of emotions taken, you know, I'm saying as far as. Do I get a job? But then you gotta...

00:10:24 Kentel

And yours was different because he did a certain amount of years. You did a certain amount of. Yeah. And I did 19. So it's like so everybody's expectation is different. Like if he was doing 2 years and you came home was like the expectation is not that big because he was just out here. But me it's like I'm like, oh, alright, hold on, hold on, hold on like.

00:10:26 Daries

Exactly.

00:10:42 Kentel

Stop asking me! Was like the... Yo, what you gonna? I'm like, yo, I'm so tired of hearing that question. And like, what you gonna do when you come home like because I'm it's a fear too, like. Like I can imagine you've been away. Thinking I have the answers but...life is different.

00:11:03 Jovon

You on that cause, like you said in the joint about to come home when you know we finally come home, we have our own expectations of yourself and I'll be fun like so. So like, I had my own expectations of things and then they fall through of how I wanted them to go, and I

realized that probably because I was incarcerated out of society for so long that I had these expectation, these plans I'm like. Nah, I was gone for a minute. I'm like, yo, that's not how life is. I have to rehabilitate within myself. Just still thinking about saying patterns or not even pattern. Just so things like. Yeah. Take a step back. Going on, maybe certain things could be like how it was before then, but coming home like, no, hold on. And I gotta change my whole game plan and everything just because of what's going on in society now. Like I had to change my own expectations. And I know a lot of us relate to that cause I don't care anyone says, when you in the joint you have all these expectations

00:11:50 Daries

Yeah. Everything you gotta do, OK. What you say, bro? You have all these expectations like, yeah, I'm gonna get this. They're so tall. So.

00:11:54 Daries

I'm gonna go to the gym three times a week.

00:11:58 Jovon

But life catches up

00:11:59 Daries

Eight months, 6-7 months. I haven’t gone to the gym since I got out, and I was in there every day.

00:12:04 Kentel

I’m gonna get a job as soon as I get out. Wrong. Like you know, I'm saying it's all them different roadblocks that...that it it changes like its trajectory on whatever you thought you was gonna do.

00:12:15 Daries

We think it's gonna. Be easy. Like you said, I'm gonna get a job, yeah okay. 00:12:17 Jovon

You got some brothers that are still struggling to get their IDs of some of us when we thought, we was gonna get it that first week. We have expectation like I'm gonna get that first week, but now I might have took us 2-3 weeks or even a month or month and a half and that time like this sets you back bro.

00:12:29 Daries

And that sets you back exactly.

00:12:32 Jovon

You feel me, just like there's so much from positive to negative with like you said, just overwhelming, but like really, it will have you stressed out, bro. There'll be some days. I'm like, yo, trust. Wanna keep my phone on DND. I don’t wanna explain myself to nobody just like, just leave me alone. I just like, I'll lock myself in the room like it's the boss. Like, I just seen a piece of mind, bro.

00:12:45 Daries

And not for nothing, Kentel, I know you know this. You like you said, you're in 19 years old. I know you, especially you. You know what I'm saying? You as well you did 10 so I can know. That's that's a long time. You've been out a couple years, right?

00:13:05 Jovon

Correct.

00:13:07 Daries

So I know for you for sure like. It was so overwhelming. Everybody wants to hang out with you. Everyone wants to talk to you. Everyone wants to see you take pictures. It's just like, oh, my.

00:13:23 Kentel

God, I know crazy like social anxiety. That was my biggest thing, like the social anxiety. I was just going in stores like I I first was just like, yo, let me just go out and just walk around, and just like try to act normal, whatever that means. Like try to act normal. No matter where I went people just knew like that I just like... I don't know... That came from a different dimension or whatever you wanna call it. One dude thought I was like a like a security guard at the store. I'm like, Nah, bro, I just got out. So he's like, oh, that's what he's like. I was wondering why you keep looking. I'm just like, yo, I'm just...I'm soaking it in, like, soaking like the like the world. Then, you know what I'm saying? Cause it's not. I don't know. I'm soaking all of it in. So yeah, it was a big transition. I had to make, like, right. Like, right, I feel like right now, it's like now I'm dealing with like, I keep asking myself like, how how how much do you care about, like, upholding other people's expectations? Like, how much does it matter? Like, like, if I, if I fall short of somebody's expectations, like, and can I live with that? And a lot of the times, I’m like yeah. Because I like with my friends from my neighborhood. That's like, my biggest...that's my biggest thing right now. It's like I can't be around them the way I want to. And it's not like it's any bad blood or whatever. It's just, you know, we the the visions is different. The vision is different and then we on two totally different paths. So it's like and then they be feeling some type of they be feeling some type of way because it's “ohh but yo man, I I wish I could chill with you. The way I see you chilling with your classmates”, but it's like... but we can't. Like we can't go back to how things used to be like. It's dead. It's dead. It's it's done. It's done. So it's just like you either to figure out a way to fit into this model or it's like, I got to keep and..It’s like htye can’t fit into the new model. It's kind of like I see, like certain friendships dying off, which I feel kind of guilty about because this is this is like, that's like a part of me, you know, the gang culture in Boston. It's like, super crazy. So it's like, I'm not gonna sit here and act like, that's not still a part of me, that's still who I am. Forget the neighborhood. These dudes that I grew up with since I was 13, 12 like so, it's like it's still like that love that's there. But then it's like...All of that is like.

00:16:04 Daries

That's that's that's I can definitely agree with that. I like the point you brought up about how you're like, can you live up to, can you live with yourself? Like, if you don't live up to someones expectations, I think that's a great point because I was kind of like feeling the same way when I first got up because you know so much. People I have a lot of people in

my neighborhood say, hey, we can do this, we can do that. But it's just like I know it's not the right thing but and and and with that situation, I felt like guilty like damn man, I haven't seen these dudes in a while. I'm kind of blowing them off. It's they just miss me. They want to hang out with me. But then at the same time, I got a vision. And the vision that I'm on, they're not in it. Because I know what they're doing and I know where that's going to lead me so. Um...That was a great question and it hit me because I was kind of experiencing that. And you know what? I was going back and forth and you know, my answer is, yeah, you know, yes, I could live with, you know, depending on what the expectation is. Like that expectation. I can live with that all day because I know it's going to just bring me back to prison.

00:17:21 Kentel

I always bring a Dutch because I feel like Dutch is like one of the the the biggest things where he like he seen what he was doing when he was in there and he's like ah, that school stuff y'all talking about is not yeah, that's not going to hold up when y'all leave like y'all not y'all not. And I don't know. I don't see it. I don't know. I don't know. I guess he couldn't see. Like this far ahead. He's just like y'all gonna go home and y'all ain't. Yeah, y'all ain't be thinking about that when you go home.

00:17:46 Jovon

A lot of fellas be like that in the joint and then say when they see you doing your bid like yo, why you programming going to this?

00:17:49 Kentel

Naysayers.

00:17:53 Daries

You wasn’t going to school when you was on the streets. Obviously I wasn't. 00:18:01 Daries

Like, yeah, whatever, bro. You just doing that right now to kill time, bro. You already know what you’re going to be doing when you come home.

00:18:06 Daries

Facts. We wasn't standing for counting the street neither. But you know what? Now it's a big difference. It’s time to change your life. That's all it is.

00:18:13 Jovon

Yeah, and sometimes dudes don't be understanding that like sometimes you just gotta evolve with the times, man.

00:18:18 Daries

Facts This is bringing back to the this old lady named Miss White from around my neighborhood. And you know, her expectation of me is changed now. Previously to my other incarcerations. Because she’d just always tell me. I know you're going back to jail. You're up to no good. And no matter what I did, she seen me. I could be doing...I could be walking the lady across the street. She probably think I'm gonna be robbing her.

00:18:44 Jovon

We always got that one lady in the hood that always feel like that about everybody. 00:18:47 Daries

And she's so nosey. She know everybody's business. What? My mother, she don't even gotta tell her. She'll walk up the street to my mother's house. My mother don't answer she’s gonna leave a note. She was bad. Leaving notes on the car window like your son outside doing x y z... She was bad. Like she was bad.

00:19:04 Jovon

You always get that one around the way.

00:19:06 Daries

But to say that recently as I got out I seen Miss White and she's like, you know, what do you want? What you doing? I'm like. No, that's not just to let her know that, like, oh, yeah, you're wrong this time. She was like, oh, you going to be back in jail? I'm like, Nah, yeah. You're wrong this time. Told her I was in school and I got a job and she just was like ohh like she said so funny. I can't remember what she said, but it was. She always has like a slick mouth. So she said something slick but it was kinda like OK, maybe you can change but I forgot the word and she said it was. Then like I guess you can change. Oh, it's like an old I guess you can clean dirty water or something. It was something so like something just Miss White something she would say. I guess you can clean dirty water. Like she insulted me and gave me a compliment at the same time.

00:19:58 Kentel

Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. But it's like, it's a satisfaction that comes with, like, I'm being, like, knowing that you proved the person wrong. So it's.

00:19:59 Daries

Exactly.

00:20:08 Kentel

Yeah. And then just by just by being you just by.

00:20:11 Daries

Exactly.

00:20:12 Daries

By doing the right thing like it's the right thing to do, it's not like you shouldn't be getting a reward for doing the right thing. There's people that go to work and do the right thing every day.

00:20:23 Jovon

But that goes to show you too little, bro, that it goes to show you that like sometimes people and I know that we probably ought to deal with this like just because we was incarcerated for so long people sometimes think we're still, that we'll have these expectations that we're still that same person before we went to prison. But not knowing our journey or what we've been through throughout the bid, you know where they see you comes like you just going to do the same old stuff again. And then when they see you elevated and evolving and they'll be like hold on what's really going on here, like you said, people just had this expectations. I was like, yeah, you're still that same person. But not knowing what we really went through.

00:20:59 Kentel

Yeah. And I think I think Dutch was thinking all that because he genuinely just didn't even. No for I he I think he just genuinely didn't like...see maybe if I was like, yeah, I'm gonna go home and become a carpenter. I'm I'm gonna do the orI 'm gonna go home and like, I don't know school is just like so far from like the realm of possibilities in his head. He's like y'all ain't gonna do that. So now that what we out and I'm doing it. He's like, alright yo you. I'm a believer now he hand me up. He's like straight hit me up through snap like yo, man, I. Yeah, I believe you. You made me a believer pretty much.

00:21:36 Daries

How does it make you feel?

00:21:37 Kentel

Good, good. And it was it. My whole thing is just like me. Just like, sat in my mind and certain things. And just like knowing I'm gonna just follow through with it. That's been my I I I...I didn't like set out to prove anybody wrong. I'm just like I'm going to just do this because I know this feels right. It just feels it feels right, like and I'm seeing like like the network I'm building along the way I'm seeing like all the good people and meeting like, throughout the whole process. And it's like, why wouldn’t I? I’d be an idiot to go against that.

00:22:13 Daries

Absolutely. The blessing in disguise.

00:22:15 Jovon

I ain't gonna hold you. I kind of. I felt like Dutch myself because even me, I did everything good throughout my bid. I did a bunch of programming. I was real heavy into restorative justice running retreats, circles got my wellness certificate, I was doing project youth, speaking to kids and everything. But the one thing I regret was I didn't go to college, bro. Everybody was on my back about your go to college, go to college, and I just like expected that I wouldn't be able to get in somewhere. I don't know why. Like I doubted myself just because I never really did good in school, like, like, like hands on stuff. Yeah, I could figure stuff out trades. But like, education. I always, like, struggled with it. Like Nah bro. And said there's no way I'm going to get in. So. I doubted myself, bro. So I went. Yeah, one year I went and took the test, right. I failed. I was mad. I was like, damn. Yeah, I knew I was going to get it. I knew it wasn’t going to happen. I expected it. But then the next year dudes is on my back to say yo take it again. I won’t take it right. I went to go take it that the year after that from two years after I had failed, I want to go take it. Well, I got in, but then they transferred me to the minimum. The minimum and now I'm in the minimum. I get love from the minimum. End up in Concord with you, and thats when I applied for Tufts. And I got accepted into Tufts, but I went back to the minimum. So me coming to college right now, this is really a first life experience and it's something I never expected I would do. But like, I never as a kid of my life, I knew I always do good in other lanes and fields. But college was something that I couldn't see myself doing just because. I can't really I'm just gonna say the truth. Truly, I can't read for \*\*\*\*. I'll be struggling for nothing. So yes, like, can't even pronounce it like this is like, yo bro. So like, I feel like that's something that like. It was an expectation that I didn't like...I couldn't see myself doing it, and it's an expectation that I over-succeeded, you know? So I feel like when you talk about your man Dutch, that's and I feel like that's where like a lot of fellas behind the wall, especially because of where I I'm just being real. I'll speak about my education level all the way. Sometimes people don't like to speak about where there education level’s at. So I feel like sometimes a lot of fellas

behind the wall, just because due to that, that education level, that's why a lot of brothers be scared to move forward with the schooling in the joint.

00:24:29 Daries

Yeah, that's true. But I think also with you gotta understand education and going to school is considered like what you call lame or you. You know, people like I'm not. People, especially in the community, they don't schools like the most people have to talk about sports or something in prison and this is a negative place, so. You don't expect people to like some people might want to go to school, but some people might be like, ah, man, I'm not going to school. It's look that it's not being cool, you know what I'm saying? So it's it's like a...lot of BS behind it too.

00:25:01 Kentel

That's just how. That's what that's like. Like changing that definition of what cool is. That's what we was talking about before was like, yo. Soon, because I went into it with the same type of like doubt because I went to jail when I was in 10th grade, but even then I didn't feel like the school was my thing. I'm just like, I don't feel like I fit in this space. And then college is a step up. That I'm just like, I don't. I don't. I don't know. I don't. I don't feel like it's. I don't. I don't feel like it's the space I belong in. And then, like, the more classes we took, it's like the more you start. Yeah, the more you start to gain the confidence and like your expectation of yourself like starts changing because you see. Like them, it's, you know, you take 100 shots...

00:25:48 Daries

You're going to start making them. Practice makes perfection. Once those shots start going in. Like oh, I’m shooting it!

00:25:55 Kentel

You like first time you took the hundred shots you only made 20, second time you only make 25.

00:26:04 Jovon

I’m gonna start making 40 45 on the next one. You know, starting here, I was nervous in the beginning, bro said. Damn, I'm in college now and I've been to something like this. They’re gonna call me out, I can’t even read correctly. And then I said I was like, I had, like, kind like on hold for like in the beginning I go and like I think I was going to follow through all the way. I’m gonna be real with you. Like I kind of I kind of had no expectations of myself starting off school and so just being comfortable being here with the fellas seeing that just being the

Medford students accepted us as well because that plays a huge part too with the students in our class. Just accepting us.

00:26:33 Daries

Yeah, absolutely.

00:26:36 Jovon

Can imagine we have class of people that don't even like us, which is a friendly like killer energy, you know, not just like helping with what you know.

00:26:38 Daries

Or if it's like very awkward, or it's gonna just it's gonna deter you from wanting to come. That’s a fact.

00:26:46 Jovon

Like they, they look at us as regular people and they don't devalue us to humanize us. They don't have no expectations, only expectation. I have us to say yo do the assignment with me, bro.

00:26:52 Daries

Yes. Exactly. Come to school. Do this assignment with me. And that ain't too hard. 00:26:56 Jovon

And that’s a good expectation

00:27:03 Daries

Yeah, you gotta hold your weight.

00:27:09 Kentel

Ohh yeah, I don't know.

00:27:14 Daries

That's my expectation. Me personally, like now my expectations a little different. I'm not thinking about trying to be Al Capone or the, you know, the richest person in the world, the the drug kingpin or something, you know, now I have realistic goals, like or realistic expectations for myself. Like, I'm gonna go to work, I'm going to eat this. I'm going to go to school and and and guess what I go to sleep, and I'm not the richest. I probably made more

money when I was hustling, but now I can go to sleep with a sense of pride that I worked hard today and I'm tired from actually working.

00:27:50 Kentel

Yeah. Now, now it's like I'll be like, oh, that's perfect. Like. Like shedding like the expectations of what everybody else thinks and just like worrying about, like, the only expectations that I have for myself and it's just that is a bunch like, you know, wake up, go to work and make sure your bills is paid. Make sure you're taking care of family. It's like those little things, those little core things that matter. Like everything else outside of that, it's like secondary. It's not. It's not. It's like I don't know. It's it's not.

00:28:25 Daries

Not top priority. You know it's top.

00:28:26 Kentel

Is not priority is not primary, it's not priority. So it's like. I'm not wasting too much energy on with the next person thinks to me, or wasting too much energy on like fulfilling other people's expectations. I'm just like, yo, my mother's happy. Yo, checking on my grandmother. Ohh, Nana’s straight. Oh, this assignment’s due. I did that. I don't care about.

00:28:46 Daries

Facts the priorities are taken care of.

00:28:50 Jovon

You know, I ain’t gonna lie, sometimes I'd be. I'd be like these people have these expectations... I don't know about trouble sometimes. Like I'll get in my mind. I'm like, yo, not for nothing. You wasn't even around on the bid or nothing like you wasn't really there like when it was crunchy, so I was going through something. So how can you really have certain expectations on me? And that's just how we want to come off as rude to people. But in my mind, just like, you know, just even just dealing with family mostly like certain things, like, oh, how do you expect all of this? When? When it was crunchy, you wasn't even there.

00:29:19 Kentel

Well, what's your expectations of yourself now?

00:29:19 Jovon

You know. I ain't gonna lie, man. I got high expectations of myself, man. I got some going just like my expectations. Now I'm in, like, it's complete school. Get some type of degree. Figure out exactly what I do. I got these expectations stuff, this LLC, working with people

with disabilities soon .I just got my expectations that have to do with like business related and like and my mental state like where I have this expecttion, long as my mental state is where it needs to be long as I'm like happy. Like what bro said I don't got to be the richest. But as long as I'm comfortable and I'm happy and like I'm able to do whatever I I can want

to do in my mind's peaceful, that's all that matters. When my family's good. And like you said, it's not about the wants. As long as the needs is taken care of, everything else is a plush, you know. And that's one thing I look at life as expectation.

00:30:01 Daries

That's facts.

00:30:14 Kentel

Another one.

00:30:17 Daries

Can't drop it? Don't drop the mic. That was good. That was good.

00:30:20 Kentel

We got 30 minutes?

00:30:48 Swinks

Thank you for listening to the MyTern podcast. MyTern is a community based university accredited program providing education, mentorship and career development support to and by those who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system. My Tern’s objective is to provide an opportunity for each participant to reframe their skills, interests, responsibility and commitments. Support these students at TUPIT.org . Music brought to you by Elmo Playtez and Vernell Jones the 2nd.