

## **How did I get here? A Strayer Alumni Story**

I am a security professional at one of the largest non-profit health care organization in the country. I oversee a budget of over 5 million dollars and manage a team of more than 125. How did I get here?

My name is Melvin burns, and I am 50 years old. As director of corporate security I oversee 5 different facilities. We deal with everything that a police department would deal with. Running from theft to assault, you name it we are going to deal with it.

I absolutely love this job, but my life was not always like this. When I got out of high school I went straight into the military. I was absolutely proud to serve this country. When I left the Marine Corps I got into private security and law enforcement. I wanted to be able to advance and move up the ladder. It was like I hit this glass ceiling, and I couldn't go any further due to the fact that I did not have a formal education.

I found out about Strayer through the veterans administration. I knew it wasn't going to be an easy deal, but I knew I wanted to keep going and I wasn't going to stop! That's the Marine in me. I went the first time and got my Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and then I got my Master's Degree in Education. Life was good, but since strayer it has been great. It's like a new beginning, and as a result of that I have been promoted 3 times. There is no question I would have been stuck without pursuing my advanced education. so when I look back on my life and I ask myself how I got here. I got here by determination and perseverance. I got here with my Strayer degrees.

**(Melvin Burns, Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and Master's in Education alumni)**