

West Point beckons for Trotwood senior

Emmanuel Osei hopes one day to be a doctor.

By Doug Page
Staff Writer

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ENGLEWOOD — Emmanuel “Manny” Osei’s goal is to become a physician; he’s just not taking a well-trod path to medical school.

The Trotwood High School senior at Miami Valley Career Technology Center will graduate this spring from the Allied Health Technologies Tech Prep program. A week later, he reports to basic training at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Then it’s four years at West Point with a possibility of the Army paying for medical school after graduation and commissioning as a second lieutenant.

“My dad told me about West Point,” Osei said. “I wasn’t sure the structure would be what I wanted, getting up early in the morning for physical training and people yelling at me all the time.”

As time passed, Osei became interested in medicine with a sophomore-year encounter with anatomy at Trotwood High School. His junior year, he enrolled in the CTC allied health program.

“I thought it would prepare me better for a career path,” he said.

There he met Ellen Elliott-Bissey, the allied health instructor at the CTC since 2001.

“I think I introduced him to the military way of life,” she laughed. Elliott-Bissey is a captain in the Army active reserve with one battlefield deployment to Iraq as a nurse under her belt.

“Manny is probably the brightest of all the students I have had. ... I’ve never had a student like him. He has a gift.”

Elliott-Bissey said she emphasized mindset to Osei.

“If I stay focused, I will get that doctor’s spot,” Osei said, one of 16 times he used the word “focus” in a 30-minute interview.

Osei traces his determination to his parents, Stella Agyeman and Anthony Osei. Anthony Osei immigrated to this country from Ghana and brought over the rest of his family. Manny was 3½ when he arrived in Brooklyn, N.Y. Two years later, the family moved to Trotwood.

“My parents are the strictest people I know,” he said with a smile.

“When I was young, there was no tolerance.”

He learned more about determination from Trotwood wrestling coach Leonard Jackson.

“I wanted to quit the first year, but I focused on what I had to do. My coaches have almost broken me down so many times. I’m sure they didn’t know.”

He ended his wrestling career with a 21-13 record after winning only one match his first year. This season he placed fifth in the sectionals in 135-pound class.

Osei was nominated to West Point by U.S. Rep. Mike Turner.

“The Army, they only want the best. I will have to stay focused. I’m excited and scared at the same time. I

just have to focus,” Osei said of his military commitment.

“I am proud to be part of his path,” Elliott-Bissey said. “I would be proud to serve with him.”

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