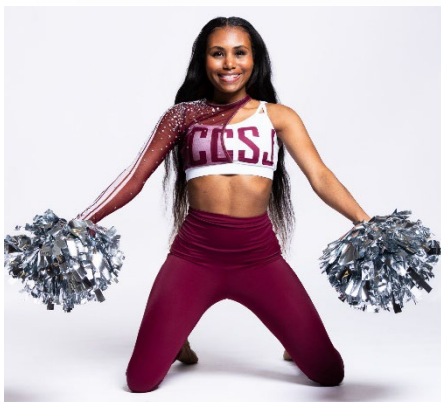


# Mission Moment



## Sophia Marie Clemons

*Junior General Studies / EMCO Student*

*Performing Arts Minor*

*CCSJ Dance Team*

*Active Minds*

“I am proudly a neurodivergent student, a loving sister, a dedicated daughter, and a dancer finding my voice.”

I am originally from Aurora, Colorado, and attended a school in Alamosa before I chose to move to Indiana with my mother rather than stay in Colorado after my parents' divorce. That transition was difficult, and during that time, I struggled academically and emotionally without knowing I had ADHD, dyslexia, anxiety, and depression. Everything felt overwhelming, and I needed space to focus on my well-being.

During my time away from school, I finally received the diagnosis that explained why learning had always felt different for me. That period also strengthened my faith. Before then, my relationship with God felt uncertain, but facing those challenges taught me how to lean on Him and trust the process of becoming who I'm meant to be.

My mom later heard about Calumet College of St. Joseph through a friend, and when I arrived on campus, I immediately felt welcomed. CCSJ gave me a fresh start—a place where I could grow academically, spiritually, and personally. My faith has grown stronger here, and I've gained confidence in myself and in the direction of my future. Joining the CCSJ Dance Team helped me find community and build meaningful friendships, while Active Minds helped me understand mental health and advocate for myself and others.

CCSJ's mission—to affirm dignity, promote growth, and empower students—perfectly reflects my experience here. The vision of being a place where students are known, successful, and belong matches exactly how I feel every day on this campus. I am grateful for the support, community, and faith-building environment CCSJ has given me, and I'm excited for the woman I am continuing to become.