

[Music]

I live a very busy lifestyle traveling the world with Team USA trying to compete for that 2018 Olympic team. I was a new mom.

I hadn't established a routine of this is bedtime and this is when we eat. I had to learn all the things about being a new mom while going to school.

It's been pretty rocky. I've come from a small town with primarily low-income families trying to get enough scholarship money to go to a college was a big hurdle.

[Music]

I chose to go back to online learning because Nursing is portable and most nurses in their first five years don't really know what they want to be when they grow up because there are so many options in nursing. And so I wanted to make sure that I was portable as my career was portable so I needed school to be portable. I had my family while I was in school. I got accepted into school two weeks later I found out I was pregnant. I had Eleanor in July of 2013 and I took my laptop to the hospital with me and I posted the day after I had her. You know sometimes you can control the environment and sometimes you can't control the environment the only person you can control is yourself which is what's awesome about online learning because I get most of the control. I can take the time to take a step back and look within myself to figure out how it is that I can overcome the obstacle and persevere.

[Music]

Always put yourself in a role to be able to give back. Since high school I've always been trying to set myself up to be in a position to give back and in this online degree is gonna put me in the even better position to be able to do that. Something that surprised me the most of my online experience is the accessibility to these professors. You know not having a face with a name and they don't know me, they don't know what I look like, who I am, what I do. So to be able to have that accessibility to them and to answer emails and how quick they are, supportive they are, and willing to work around our schedules. They know 90% of us have something else that we're doing. It's been incredible. I'm also in the New York National Guard as a construction and masonry engineer and so trying to balance those two, plus working on a master's degree on top of it, it does get tough.

Growing up in Section was definitely different. You know my grandparents didn't graduate high school because they had family obligations and then my mother didn't graduate, my father didn't graduate. But you know my sisters and I all went to high school and it was it was kind of a big deal for us to graduate. My sister Jesse started college but what kind of interceded and she got married and had children and my sister Leslie kind of followed the same path so yeah I was the lone wolf and I thought okay I got this. When I graduated in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry I had applied to dental school. Everybody in my family knew that's where I was going but you have this times in life where you're going towards one goal and I had a car accident and injured my arm. It was an examination period. You definitely don't want somebody coming at you with a very shaky hand in dentistry, so I turned my educational path from one direction to another. I think the online program has been wonderful for me. I didn't have to be in a classroom. You know if my grandfather was sick, I could take my computer with me and be at the hospital with him, or be at home like my grandmother, or be here fishing with my dad for the weekend. It really allowed me just limitless possibilities to not be in one place.

[Music]

If you know how you learn, no matter how it is that you learn, you can make online learning work for you. If you can just get out there and knock out a little bit all the way throughout the course it's, it's I'm having the time of my life learning and hanging out and talking to these these other coaches so it's been it's been awesome. Coming from a small town I had to support myself while I was in college and the part of doing that was working full-time. You know online learning gave me the flexibility to do that.

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