

## My Story

It was only a week until my high school graduation when I had an overwhelming feeling of regret from what I could have done during the previous four years. I spent a majority of my high school years not giving an importance to my education, but towards the end of my junior year I received assistance from important friends in my life who helped me realize that without my education I had nothing. During my senior year I still applied to colleges and tried to catch up on my schoolwork even though I knew I had fallen behind too far to catch up in a short amount of time.

To my surprise I managed to gain admission to San Jose State University and it seemed as if I would be the first of my family to attend college after all, but I was still unsure about the road that was ahead of me; nevertheless, my family and friends were proud that I managed to make it to college. I knew I could have had a better road ahead of me if I had tried harder in high school, but I refused to be weighed down by my past actions and I accepted admission to San Jose State.

After leaving freshman orientation I felt better about my choice and I was ready to begin my academic career in journalism. As I was preparing to leave my choices in high school behind me, I received a letter three weeks before school started that my acceptance had been withdrawn because I received a D in English my freshman year. I felt humiliated that my family's joy had been taken away from my past mistakes. My family and I struggled with the admission office to see if there was any other options left that I could do, but it was too late for me to try and fix what I had already ruined.

Community College was my only option left, and I knew for certain this was going to allow me to start my academic career on a fresh note. Once again, I refused to be weighed down by the situation I got myself into, and I went into college with a specific goal and plans to achieve it. I wanted to gain admission to Chapman University, my first choice for earning a Bachelors degree in Television and Broadcast Journalism.

I researched the requirements I had to fulfill before gaining admission, and I was prepared to prove to Chapman that I could excel in my academics. However, even with the support of financial aid Chapman would cost me over \$10,000 from my own pocket. This is more than my family and I can afford, so I also fulfilled requirements for other colleges as well.

In my first year at De Anza College I became a member of Phi Theta Kappa. I was proud I was able to become part of an honor society and exceed in my classes, but upon my initiation I realized how much I could benefit from getting involved in my campus community. Shortly after, I joined the staff of La Voz Weekly and became a club member of LEAD. Participating in these activities only added to my education I was learning inside the classroom. Serving my campus taught me that the best way to apply my knowledge was to get involved with my community.

Although Chapman University is more than I can afford, I am continuing to follow through with my academic plans and pursue my Bachelors degree when I transfer in Fall 2013. Regardless of which university I am able to attend, I plan to apply my knowledge to my community and always spread the importance of receiving an education.