

Embracing the climb to find myself, all the way up to the top

I am not the average student here at KPU. I'm 35-year-old, full-time international student from California, a full-time Mom of 3 boys (7 month-old, 3 year-old and 8 year-old), and an owner of a small business. In High school, I always dreamt of studying abroad and moving to a foreign country. At that time it was all a dream, a mountain I would never climb. I never once thought I'd pursue it. But, after having my first child and getting married, my life took a different direction - I wanted more for my family and myself too. I wanted to get to the mountaintop. So I packed up my bags to finish up my degree, in a country that was actually foreign to me. Stepping out of my sheltered comfort zone, not knowing one single person here in Canada and starting my climb up the mountain to live the dream that was worth the pursuit.

When I began my studies here at KPU I had no idea what I wanted to major in, I was pregnant with my second child and my husband almost died before I started my first day. I was nervous, anxious and scared to fail. To be honest, I was lost and had no grip. But eventually, I let my education take hold of me and let my passion be my guide and soon, I was found. Once I allowed myself to create a sense of agency over my own education and life as a whole, my transformation had began. It was not easy, I had to overcome so many landslides along the way but managed to find myself in the process. I found my place in the Educational Studies and Counseling courses and discovered the most inspirational, admirable and motivational mentors in my life. In addition to my family, these few have made the strongest impact on the person I am today. Their relentless support has not only helped me find my authentic self, it has transformed me

into a better student, mother and person. It has also made me proud of what I have accomplished and what I can conquer, against all odds.

Now, as I am sitting on top of this mountain, looking at my future ahead, I couldn't be anymore happier with my decision to be where I am, right now. I am working diligently to finish my final courses here at KPU this year. This journey has been absolutely amazing. I'm looking forward to and trusting what lies ahead of me. I know whole-heartedly that I would not have had the same post-secondary experience at any other University and I am so proud to become a KPU Alumni. I never imagined my life would be where it is today. But throughout everything I have overcome on this journey and still, moving forward - I embrace it, no matter where it may take me vowing to always be a student and never stop learning.