

The Santa Ana College President's Circle Success Story

Kenninsy in her own words:



I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the future of students at Santa Ana College. I stand here knowing that without this community, we the students would not be here.

Today, I feel so proud to be here because not long ago, I was a high school dropout. I dropped out of high school in my junior year. As a daughter of a house cleaner and someone on the path of citizenship, I believed that it did not matter how many honors classes I took, it did not matter how much I study, it did not matter how much I dreamed for a chance to go to school - I would not be able to go college.

After I dropped out, I worked in retail for ten years and for ten years, I dreamed of finishing my education. In 2012, the company I worked for was sold and I was let go.

I was almost 30 years old with no job, no money and no education. During that time, I did everything to survive, I collected cans, I cleaned floors and ate lots of beans. I thought going to school would be a dream but never a reality.

However, I tell you now, never give up on your dream because there is always someone that will help you achieve them.

I used to live by Edinger and Fairview. One day waiting for the bus, a man came up to me. I thought he was going to ask me for a dollar or ask me if I have been saved and to join his church. I was already thinking about the excuses to give him. "Lost my job. I do not have any money. My cat died. I do not have time." Or the classic excuse, "I don't speak English". But he did not ask for anything. Instead, he told me about the opportunities, the classes and how can I finish my high school diploma at Santa Ana College.

Today, I am blessed to call him a friend. Today, I stand in front of you as a high school graduate, Santa Ana College graduate, scholarship recipient, and a UCLA pre-med student.

After graduation, I hope to open a STEM school for girls. I believe, if you educate a girl, you educate the entire family. However, my graduation, my accomplishments, and my future work are not just because of me.

I stand here on the shoulders of all of you. I stand here on the shoulders of giants. Giants like Al and Carol Preusch. They invested in me and my future with their scholarship.

I would like to tell you, regardless of the dollar amount, the true impact of the support and the belief that someone out cares for us is unquantifiable.

On behalf of all students at SAC thank you and because you have blessed us today, we will have the opportunity to bless others tomorrow.