

Ali Harshman--How My Community College Changed My Life

Attending your community college can be a life-changing experience--whether you enroll in a transfer program of study or a career/technical program of study. Whatever your educational needs, there are opportunities to help set the foundation for your future.

Alexandra Harshman (Ali) found Northeast Alabama Community College in Rainsville, Alabama to be such a place. She enrolled at NACC in the fall of 2016 and is pursuing an associate in arts.

“NACC paved a path of success for me, starting from the moment I decided to obtain my GED,” said Ali. “I was homeschooled for a large portion of my life; my education suffered immensely in my later years of high school due to a difficult situation my family was going through. This discouraged me greatly and caused me to develop a lot of anxiety and fear about pursuing a higher education. After moving to Alabama, my fiancé encouraged me to visit the adult education center at Northeast and take GED classes. Everyone at the adult education center was so reassuring, patient, and supportive. Within two weeks I passed every test and earned my GED. The next step for me was to work towards my Associate’s degree. Now I only have two semesters left until I graduate.”

She continued, “I have come across the most inspiring and brilliant instructors during my time here. Every instructor at Northeast is passionate about what they teach and is completely devoted to their students. I have yet to meet a single teacher that lacks enthusiasm about helping students. Because of this enthusiasm, it is so much easier to retain information and enjoy learning. Free tutoring is a valuable asset and is important to take advantage of at Northeast. Just like the instructors, the tutors are committed to helping students understand and learn class material.”

Since beginning classes at Northeast, Ali states that she has learned so much more than she could have imagined. “Not only have I learned important skills and knowledge for my future career, but I have also grown as a person due to the positive influence of the faculty and educators here at Northeast. During my education, I have been treated with nothing but kindness, courtesy, and respect from my instructors; that is something I sincerely hope to reflect as a student. My experience at Northeast has made a tremendous impact on my life. I am so thankful to have the wonderful opportunity and honor of attending Northeast Alabama Community College.”

Ali plans to transfer after graduating from Northeast and to pursue bachelor and master degrees. Her career goal is to become a college art instructor. She also desires to have her own art studio. Future plans include traveling to Paris, France to study and/or teach one day. Mediums with which she works include digital, graphite, charcoal, and acrylic paint, as well as others.

As a comprehensive community college, NACC provides educational programs in academic transfer, career and job training, cultural activities, the fine arts, and adult basic education. To learn more about how attending community college can benefit you, please go to www.nacc.edu or download the free app at the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

Photo: Ali Harshman

Photo: Ali puts the final touches on one of her portrait drawings in graphite.

Article written by Debra A. Barrentine, Director of Promotions and Marketing at NACC.