

EVERYONE DESERVES A CHANCE 2002 STUDENT PROFILE

Jessica Figueroa

Age: 23

Senior, Felician College

Major: Sociology

Hometown: Perth Amboy, NJ

Graduate of Perth Amboy High School
and Middlesex County College
Recipient of TAG



As a young woman growing up in a close-knit latino community, it wasn't the norm to go to college, and I didn't get a lot of support when I decided it was something I wanted to do. I wanted to become independent, broaden

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my horizons and prove to myself that I could be someone no matter the limitations or obstacles put in front of me. I knew that in order to get somewhere in life and become the person I wanted to be, I would need an education.

I also knew that it wouldn't be easy and that I couldn't afford it on my own.

Being the first person in my family to go to college is a dream come true for me, and financial aid helped to turn that dream into reality. Doing well in college is very important to me, and I supplement the financial aid I receive with a part-time job. It's not

always easy, but it is worth it.

At Felician College I feel fulfilled. The course work and professors are providing me with a solid education, and the opportunity to be involved in community outreach projects is wonderful. Last year at Christmas, I went with a group from Felician to a hospice facility to sing Christmas carols, pray with the residents, have lunch with them, share hugs and smiles, and make them feel special.

When I graduate, I plan to get a full-time job in the social work field and pursue a master's degree part time. I would like to work in outreach programs to counsel youth in need. I want to make a difference in people's lives and know I will be prepared to do that thanks to the education and training I received in college.

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