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Story Telling Through the Media

My CCV Story

When I first started thinking about going to college in high school, I was dead set on going into the military. After years of my parents talking down the military and telling me the bad things about it (even though they both were active service members and loved serving the country, they didn't want to tell me the good things and have me get stars in my eyes), my mom finally sat me down and began to tell me the benefits and pluses of serving in the military. I finally decided that military was the right path. My parents were all for this, they said that the only restriction they would place upon me for this was to go to a four year college and get my degree, then commission as an officer.

Mom had always told me, "go into a service where you have a better chance of picking your job, instead of being thrown into one."

She's had the experience with this, being Air Force, Navy reserves, and Army. That being said I picked to go into the Navy. Living in Kentucky, it didn't have a college that had a Navy ROTC program, so I had to find one that I would like that had the program I was looking for. Wanting to go into the engineering program, I found a college in Vermont, being close to family (I have a grandma and an aunt who live in the upper portions of the state.), I submitted my applications and was accepted to Norwich University for mechanical engineering in the Navy ROTC program.

After moving up to Vermont to live with my grandma, I began preparations to go to college and start my life. After surviving freshman year (going through a very intense basic

training like regimen on top of college courses), I determined that the military wasn't going to be the right choice for me. After struggling through my sophomore year and the first half of my junior year, I found out engineering was going to be the wrong career choice. The math was too difficult and I couldn't understand and wrap my head around the concepts that I needed to know. I made the very tough decision to drop out of Norwich, and change my major.

While at Norwich, I was an active member in the community service office, getting off campus and helping the community as much as I could. One of the services I continually participated in was an after school program for troubled and at-risk youth who needed a mentor. I fell in love with this program and began to wish, "why can't I do this for my life? Why am I still struggling and trying to push myself through the engineering program which I'm having so much difficulty in?"

So that's exactly what I decided to do, when I changed my major, I changed it to education and human services which dreams in the future of opening up a YMCA like center for at-risk youth so I can rehabilitate them and make them productive citizens of society.

After dropping out of Norwich, I was kind of lost, not really sure where to start for college, with the ever looming threat of paying off student loans. I asked grandma for help.

"Why don't you go to CCV? They can help you get back on track and figure out where to go."

After having that discussion with grandma, I went to CCV St. Albans and talked to a college counselor. Kerri Brooks, my assigned counselor was a great help, she helped me get on track and pick something that I would like to do. She also was able to evaluate my credits that I had earned at Norwich and tell me what I what I would need to do next. With her help, I was

able to determine that I would only need 15 more credits to earn my associates degree in liberal studies, which will help transfer me back to a four year institution.

Currently, I'm in my 4<sup>th</sup> week taking the 15 required credits to earn my degree. After earning my degree I have plans to transfer to University of Texas in San Antonio where I will pursue a bachelor's degree in education and human services.

The staff at CCV was able to help me in finding the right path and make the right choices to continue my education. The instructors are intriguing and knowledgeable, making class fun and you learn a lot while in class. I was proud of myself being able to make the decision I did, and I know my family supports me in my endeavors and are very proud of me.