

How Kishwaukee College Has Changed My Life

By Perla Gonzalez

I have been blessed with my experience at Kishwaukee College. When selecting a college, I considered various aspects of schooling — cost, location, academics, etc. Kishwaukee College was the right fit for me. Right off the bat, a fantastic counselor greeted me. I expressed many doubts about the selection of classes, and she left me feeling confident with my choice to attend a community college.

I had the flexibility to attend in-person and online classes. As I had to juggle other family responsibilities, flexibility was perfect for me. From my psychology, English, biology, and math professors, I have constantly felt heard and pushed to do my best. In high school, it is portrayed that the professors in college don't care about your personal life and will not help you. It is the complete opposite at Kishwaukee because the professors and staff are always seeking ways to improve your education.

Kishwaukee is a small community, and therefore you get to see most of the same classmates every day as opposed to attending a university where you see different people. After high school, everyone goes their separate way, but the people I have met at Kishwaukee will be lifelong friends. For example, my National Society of Leadership and Success peers have impacted how I view my studies and my drive to be a better student. Involvement is highly encouraged at Kishwaukee and has made me feel welcomed on campus and comfortable in my learning environment.

When choosing my college, the biggest stressor was financial issues. Coming from a big family with a low income poses a threat to furthering my education. Kishwaukee has been an enormous help when it comes to my financial situation. I have been in the financial office many

times to discuss aid options. I am currently a debt-free student, which allows me to focus on my studies. The campus food pantry has been a stress reliever for not only myself but also my family. Kishwaukee possesses so many resources that it is easy to take that weight off my back. I am extremely grateful to have people who believe in me.

I am honored to be part of the Kishwaukee College Early Learning Center staff. I don't have much time to be a full-time student while maintaining a job, but the student worker position at Kishwaukee has allowed for flexibility to do both. The Early Learning Center is a great experience to have to further my skills of care, which will be of substantial use to me in my nursing field. I am so excited to have this experience and that Kishwaukee has opportunities like this for its students.

Kishwaukee has made the transition between high school and college so easy, and I can say they have been a relief. I am so thankful to be a Kougear!