

How Community College Has Changed My Life

By Pedro Hall

Being accepted to Kishwaukee College changed my life by giving me the opportunity to resume my education after a 15-year hiatus. This break was not on purpose or due to a lack of desire to thrive. It was due to life circumstances that were out of my control. I have come to understand that things happen for a reason and at the right time. Kishwaukee College gave me a huge push of encouragement when they not only accepted my enrollment application but also validated the credits of classes I had taken in the past. Starting with half the credits required for graduation gave me excitement and motivation to restart my long-time goal of pursuing higher education. Kishwaukee College gave me the opportunity to restart my education. I moved to Illinois to help a friend in need due to her having significant health issues. I

was oblivious to the fact that my dream of higher education was about to be awakened. A dream that had been dormant for many years was revived when my former guardian asked me if I still wanted to pursue higher education. I responded that I did. A few days later, I applied to Kishwaukee College and was accepted. I was more excited than I have ever been in my life because I knew that this time there would not be any obstacles to prevent me from reaching my academic/professional goals.

On January 18, 2023, I took a picture holding a sign that read, “First Day of School! ¡Primer día de clases! Kishwaukee College, Malta IL. #estudiandoporunsueño #gokougars!” In the background, a frame read “Bloom Where You Are Planted.” This picture paints a summary of how that day was the beginning of my dream of obtaining a doctorate degree in education. One