

NextUp Video - Alicia
October, 2017

Alicia: I used to get in trouble as youth. So I was always in and out of the juvenile hall, which led the judge to take away both my parents' rights. I was in foster care from ages 15 to 18. My boyfriend's grandma is the reason why I went back to college. She used to push us all the time. Telling us that we need to go back if we want to get a good education, and we want to get a good job.

Aaren: We provide a lot of, what we call, intrusive support for our students, so a lot of direct aid to students in the form of gas cards, meal cards. They also get a lot of support in terms of academic counseling, academic planning, career counseling, personal counseling, things like that.

There's been multiple students in our program, just in the last two semesters where the NextUp program has been the difference between them being able to continue through college or having to drop out.

Alicia: For me, what it helps me out with is, I don't have to work two jobs. Which the helps out tremendously.

Aaren: Alicia is an amazing student. This is her last semester. She's transferring to Fresno State, so I'm excited to see that. I'm really excited to see what she goes on to do.

Alicia: What I really want to do with my degree is I want to work with at-risk youth. I was once there, so it's really easy to communicate and relate to these kids. I would tell them do not limit yourself. I would tell them that there are many possibilities that you can have when you go to college. I was afraid but I took that chance and now I'm in a great place.