



2020 High School Equivalency Graduate

Laurien's testimony is about her life journey from Brazil to Begin Anew Student Graduate to enrolling in college!

I am a native of Brazil, and my life journey started in a small town in the state of Minas Gerais. I am the youngest of three children, and I was raised in a lovely and peaceful home with my siblings, parents, and grandmother. My parents have always been simple people, who never had the opportunity or finances to pursue higher education. Nevertheless, they sacrificed greatly to excel in their trades and provide a better life for their children.

As I was working, I decided to pursue a cultural exchange program where I could work and study abroad. I committed to working for a family in Tennessee as their Au Pair. I had never been on a plane, and I didn't speak much English. I was a dreamer from a small town in Brazil, flying to the United States to pursue a program that ultimately would change the trajectory of my life.

This decision has led me to many more experiences that have shaped me into the woman I am today. When I arrived here three years ago, I had to sink or swim.

Looking back, I am proud of the courage I had to overcome these obstacles and how determined I was to improve myself. I was welcomed to the United States by the kindest family in the world! When I decided to get my High School diploma in the USA, Begin Anew of Middle Tennessee was the program that appealed to me the most. I was excited to study in a place that shared the same values and spiritual foundation that I was raised. While studying at Begin Anew, I was able to improve my English tremendously and make lasting friendships. With a second language rolling off my tongue and a diploma in hand, I knew I wanted to pursue a college education, something my parents never had. Once I graduated, I was accepted and enrolled in Williamson College. I am going to study Business Administration and Management. I believe this program will help me develop skills and relationships that will enable me to start my own business and become a better version of myself, professionally and spiritually. I am excited to continue to carry out the mission God has for my life.

When all is said and done, I believe that everything is connected. God has a mission and a purpose for each one of us, and we must try to understand this mission to live a full life. That is why I want to be part of Williamson College because I want to know God's purpose for my life, and I believe that the educators and resources at Williamson College will help me accomplish this together with the scholarship from Begin Anew.