

Monica Phoung

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JANET WEBER: This is *Journeys of Learning*, where we talk to students that have taken unconventional pathways to reach their educational goals. I'm Janet Weber, and I'm your host. I'm a counselor at De Anza College, and I created this pod cast so that students will feel less alone on their own journeys of learning.

We are here with Monica Phoung today, and I first met Monica at Foothill College when she came to me to talk about an English class that she was struggling with, and that was probably 5 years ago I'm guessing?

MONICA PHOUNG: I think it was 5 years ago.

JANET WEBER: Monica, will you tell us a little bit about your background.

MONICA PHOUNG: Of course. I grew up in San Jose, California. I grew up with a single parent and an older sibling -- my sister's 5 years older than me. So growing up, I guess we all were kind of just very independent and I kind of didn't really have, like, a guidance growing up, kind of, just going with the flow. It's not like I

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couldn't go to my sister or my mom for any advice it was just more of, like, I grew up so independent that I kind of had needed to figure things out on my own.

And then in high school -- even elementary school, high school, middle school -- I wasn't really the best student. I was fine with getting C's, B's. I didn't really study that often. I was able to pass so that's kind of whatever to me. I was able to graduate not with the best scores, but I think I knew at that time I just wanted to go to community college because that's what my sister was doing. So I just followed her path.

JANET WEBER: You really followed your sister's path.

MONICA PHOUNG: I did. I really did [laughing].

So yeah. Like, I'm in high school, I knew I was going to go to community college so I definitely -- probably that's why I didn't really care about my grades in high school. But, again, in high school I didn't develop any good test-taking strategies, I didn't know how to talk

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to my professor. All I knew is, like, I just wanted to pass.

So going to community college I applied to Foothill College because that's what my sister did so that's what I did, too. Going into community college, I had no idea what I wanted to do. I remember I was taking English class, writing classes, and probably, like, sort of psych class just to complete my general education. I remember that I kind of brought the same attitude towards studying back in community college, and, like, same thing. I was, like, not knowing how to study, not knowing how to talk to my professor. I remember when I took my first exam for my intro to psychology class, I bombed it. Like, I failed so bad. I was, like, so sad after getting, like, such a bad score on my exam. And, like, that just clicked.

Like, I cannot do this anymore. I can't keep failing my classes all time. I can't, like -- I have to keep studying.

JANET WEBER: That must have been scary,  
too --

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MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my gosh.

JANET WEBER: -- being in a new school, being in college, and then realizing you're not doing well.

MONICA PHOUNG: Exactly; right? And then I just felt so overwhelmed and, like, I can't keep doing this anymore. And I have to change myself. And of course it was hard to do that. Like, it's not like okay, like, one time I get a B -- a D and then next time I get an A. It was definitely hard work to, like, kind of get into the mind set of yeah, I need to study, I need to, like, pick a plan and stuff. So it does take a look of work.

And another class I was taking was English, and writing was not my strongest suit. I could not not write. My grammar's horrible. And when I wrote my first essay and turned it in. I think she called me in and was like, hey, like, this essay isn't that great. What can we do to, like, improve this?

JANET WEBER: Let's call her out.

MONICA PHOUNG: Natalia Melendez. I love her so much.

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JANET WEBER: And how wonderful that she takes to time to not just grade it and turn it back to you --

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my God, yeah.

JANET WEBER: -- but to talk to you about what's going on, and noticing that you need some help.

MONICA PHOUNG: She was, like, hey, like, I noticed, like, some [indiscernible] things on your essay. Like, if you have time, come through to my office and we can talk about it. And of course at that time I wanted to do good many my classes so I went to her office and she explained to me oh, what can we do? And she's just been so kind, and so supportive, and she has just been the first person to be like hey, like, she wanted to see me improve in her classes. And she just gave me all these resources saying, like, hey, there's a program on Foothill where you can go and they will support you on these things.

She introduced me to Pass the Torch, which is a writing course, and in there they were super supportive, too. They were like hey, like, what

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are some goals that you want to work on? And at that time I knew that my weakness was writing and my weakness was grammar, and they were, like, hey, totally we can work on that. Like, just come once a week, and then we can work on any assignments that you want to work on. And it's just such a supportive community or, like, center where it's just -- sometimes being very vulnerable is very scary, especially when you're coming to an educational point, but you are there for yourself. And that program is there for you.

So then it's kind of, like, making that first step saying hey, I do need extra time for grammar; I do need extra time to, like, learn how to write a more professional paper.

So that program has been very helpful, too. And I think through Pass the Torch I learned the Disability Learning Center. Even in the past, in elementary and middle school I had a learning disability, but I never knew how much it affected me until community college where I needed to push through challenge in my life. I do have this, like, dyslexia which is a problem which is why

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maybe my writing is not that great. I need to take time to read.

So during that, that's where I met Janet. And she's been really helpful, too. Like hey, like, this is what you can do for your learning disability and what Foothill can offer me. Again, like, this is my education, this is what I really need, and through Pass the Torch, through DR, through Janet, I've been able to navigate my journey as a student. And since that first quarter and having such a supportive team and also, like, group of people, it's been great. You know, like, everyone's been really helpful.

And of course through my G.E.'s -- of course at this time I still did not what I wanted to do.

JANET WEBER: One thing I wanted to emphasize of what you just said was that you had a team, and I actually remember Natalia Melendez referring you to the Disability Resource Center, and one thing that I remember is that you were really struggling in that first quarter, and after you started working with the D.R.C., getting accommodations, getting the tools that you needed, working with

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Pass the Torch, and taking advantage of the resources on campus, I might have this wrong but I remember you getting straight A's after that.

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my gosh, yes, I did. I would, like, talk with, like, Natalia and even not doing great on my first exam, that really clicked for me that I really have to do the work. And then after that first essay I did get A's because, like, I really made that effort to, like, I need help, and I'm trying to get the support that I need.

And it is daunting, but you just have to kind of put your foot forward. And yeah. After that, I've been getting A's in all my classes.

JANET WEBER: I have a question. You weren't doing well that first quarter, and what you did was talk to your professor. Luckily she invited you in, but when she told you about the different resources, you did go to those and take advantage of them. And like you just said, kind of realized that you wanted to step up and do the work. And what made you want to do that rather than just quit?



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MONICA PHOUNG: I knew that it was on me and, like, I don't want to give up on certain things. And then I have nobody else to rely on, and I don't know what else I would do if I gave up. If I gave up, like, what would I do? Just wake up every day and, like, do the same thing? I just knew I wanted something more in my life. And I was lost at that time, too. Like, I didn't know what else I wanted to do. This is, like, my only option so I have to put all my effort into it. It's not like I wanted to prove something for me, but I want do this. I wanted to do good in my schools, like, I want to be able to, like, have a better future for myself.

It is hard, you know.

JANET WEBER: I think that's the key that you wanted to do it for yourself.

MONICA PHOUNG: Yeah. I think that's a really huge part. Because of course, like, growing up with my family you have -- I think, like, sometimes I have my mom is making me do this, or, like, my sister's making me do this. But they gave me so much freedom to do everything. Like,

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you're 18 now. You can be an adult. It's just more of an internal. I just want to do this for myself, and I think that's the biggest part, too.

JANET WEBER: And I remember that when you started Foothill, you didn't know what you wanted to major in. And then that's been a bit of a journey.

MONICA PHOUNG: That was a huge journey. I think the first year or so, like, I didn't know what to do. I was just trying to complete my G.E.s. And when I came down to having only, like, two G.E.'s left I was like I still don't know what to do so I guess I'm going to just follow my sister or have my sister kind of motivate me a little bit, like, kind of push me. Hey, do nursing. Just do it. Hey, yeah. I kind of like it. Like, she's telling me, like, hey I just only need to work three times a week, I get paid really well, I don't have to think about work after I leave. Seems very ideal to me.

When I took my first physiology class I was just so overwhelmed. Oh, I have to remember all these bones, I have to remember all these parts,

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and I could just not do it. I think I dropped out after my first week because I just did not know what I wanted to do. And I was talking to Janet about it. I don't know if anatomy and physiology's my thing, but I just really like helping people. And, like, oh, at this time I was working at the D.R.C., too, and I loved it. I loved talking to people, I loved working with students with disabilities. So I really liked that area, and I really liked helping students. And I wanted to help students that were me a year ago who were so confused, did not know how to study, who did not know how to talk to professors, and were just as clueless as me. And I was like hey, I think this is my passion. I want to be able to help students in an academic setting and just help them, guide them. Because I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one who's lost and confused in their future.

And having Janet there was so supportive for me. And she was, like, so calming and supportive. And she was like hey, like, if you want to do something like what I do, then go for it. And

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then that's what helped me, like, hey, I think me being a counselor, or being a therapist, or just helping other students is my fashion.

And I dropped out of my anatomy and physiology class. I then just took a lot of psych classes and research classes to be able to transfer out. And I just loved it so much. I love being able to learn about the brain, and learn how, like, people interact with each other, and how the world works, and it was super fun.

And just being able to just work with more students. It just motivated me to be like hey, this is what I wanted to do.

And after that, I transferred out to Santa Barbara. UC Santa Barbara and had the time of my life. It was really fun, and just meet other students, and just meet other people from different areas.

JANET WEBER: I remember at Foothill you really blossomed in a lot of ways. When I first met you, you were very shy, and at Foothill you kind of started coming out of your shell, and meeting people, and going places, and going to

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parties, and --

MONICA PHOUNG: Yeah.

JANET WEBER: -- dating.

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my gosh. Yeah.

JANET WEBER: And then when you went to UC Santa Barbara you really blossomed.

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my gosh. Yeah. I think what helped in Foothill is that, um, I think everyone's pretty independent, too. It's such an inviting community where you can really just test out anything. Like, there's a lot of clubs there, academic clubs that you can join. And the one thing that I noticed about Foothill is because since everyone is independent it is kind of small in a sense. But the students are so nice, and they're always willing to, like, help you out.

And I think that's one thing that I didn't really initiate that often when I was at Foothill because since I was shy, I wasn't that talkative, but if I could go back to Foothill I would just talk to everyone. It's just a good way to network. Just try out different things at Foothill because I think De Anza's a little bit

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different. That's what I've heard. Students at De Anza are a little bit more social, but Foothill's a great way to get your classes, like, done, and the professors are super nice, and I think I had -- my experience at Foothill was really good.

JANET WEBER: And then even more so at UC Santa Barbara.

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my gosh. Yeah. It's a really fun school. I think when I entered Santa Barbara I was shy because, again, new city, new school, new people to be around. I had to really focus on my skills now. People do say that community college and university level is different. And of course I did have that support, learning and disabilities at the university level at Santa Barbara, but it's not as supportive. Like, I can't really go to, like, a counselor like Janet to talk about certain things. But again, like, I lived with my learning disability for such a long time that I kind of know, like, what I needed to do. So in that sense, it's been kind of supportive. But I do get extra time off which is

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helpful.

I only had two years left for my degree. So I have to really, like, focus down. And it really did test it because there's a lot of reading in psychology. So I really had to take the time to, like, read and it was difficult. It was just something that you have to manage. It does take a look of work to do it.

But overall, I love Santa Barbara. I loved my experience there, I learned a lot of things in psychology. And it's so interesting to, like, read some articles and be very efficient reading, like, academic articles and, like, learning how to word works, and how science works, too. But yeah. It's been fun [indiscernible] people.

JANET WEBER: Yeah. That's one thing that community college students, I would even say the general population doesn't know that at the community colleges there's so much support. From what I hear from students, so much more support which is interesting because we get the least amount of money from the government but we give the most support.

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MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my gosh. Yeah. I'm thinking maybe because of the population size in community college people come in and out, but then the university level you're dealing with, like, thousands of kids.

JANET WEBER: Yeah.

MONICA PHOUNG: And it is not just adults. Like, kids. That's what I noticed, too. Like, you are really independent in a university. Even when you talk to your professors, they are willing to help you out and talk, but it's not as intimate as a community college setting.

JANET WEBER: Mm hmm.

MONICA PHOUNG: Like, I think once you go more into your minor in a university, but class sizes are, like, hundreds of kids in the classroom.

JANET WEBER: Mm hmm.

MONICA PHOUNG: Students, I mean; not kids. But you're dealing with hundreds of students in a stadium kind of or, like, a room versus at a community college you're dealing with probably 30 students which is so easier to talk to. Sometimes with the professors at a community college, hey,



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go and get into your groups that's how easy it is. But in the university setting it's just lecture, and then you just have to sit there, just take notes, and it's less intimate.

JANET WEBER: And then you have your sections.

MONICA PHOUNG: Sections, yeah. Those are just difficult, too. Like, you probably, like, meet up once a week, and it's not as intimate, too. And then it is harder to make friends when you're a transfer or to, like, get your connections when you're a transfer student. There's pros and cons it depends on how active you are at the school.

JANET WEBER: Yeah. I appreciate you talking about the transition both from high school to community college, and then community college to university because I think that more students need to hear about the transitions and how to adapt, and what changes, and what to expect.

MONICA PHOUNG: Especially when you're, like -- at least when I was younger, like, coming from, like -- when I was really, really shy in high school and now being, like, a little more

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talkative, it is hard to open yourself up because it's scary. But I think what I've learned is just -- if I could go back and redo all of that, is just be open to, like, new opportunities and, like, try new things and, like, be more open to talking to new people even though what if that person doesn't like me? Who cares? Just, like, being open and at least in Santa Barbara I wish I was a little bit more active in school. I joined a sport in Santa Barbara, but I wanted to just join more actives in school. Go to more events and not have to focus on work so much because I did work during Santa Barbara.

Yeah. I did wish I was more active in school, but I did make really good friends at work when I was working.

JANET WEBER: Where did you work?

MONICA PHOUNG: At Apple. I was the Apple girl saying, like, "Hey do you need help with your phone?" I was there. I loved working with Apple, though. It was pretty fun.

JANET WEBER: Tell us what you're doing now.

MONICA PHOUNG: Okay. So I'm going to nursing

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school now. So it was a huge, like, you know going back and forth to nursing, and now psychology, and now nursing again, too. So now I got here is that during my last year at Santa Barbara I think I was kind of losing that drive to be, like, a therapist or a academic counselor because I think at that time my goal was I want to be a social worker and work with, like, underprivileged youths in communities in the educational system because I just feel like education is such, like, a strong -- it's, like, something that no one can take from you, and I just think that a lot of kids or students just need that support where, like, hey, like -- I just wanted to help them with education.

But then when there was just in my last year of Santa Barbara I think I was just losing that motivation, and I was just kind of lost in that little space where I just felt kind of lost. I don't know if I really want to do this. Because I was kind of comparing myself to the other students, too, in my cohort because they just seemed so passionate. And in one of my classes

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there would social workers that would come into our class and just talk about, like, what they do. And I was also getting a little bit overwhelmed by that, too. Like, I don't know if I could do that. I don't know if I could -- like, what if something happens when I become a social worker and I don't think I'm really emotionally ready for that? And I was also comparing myself to other students who were super passionate with what they do. Like, they wanted to work with this population, and another population, and they were just so passionate that I was kind of comparing myself to them.

Yeah. I just felt really unmotivated to do it now. And I still want to help people, but maybe not in a social work way but maybe I can just help them in, you know, a nursing way. I still want to be a social worker, but I just want to try nursing just in case. Because what if, like, nursing really isn't my thing? So I just wanted to try it out.

So after I graduated I kind of looked like what do I need to do to be a nurse because I just

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wanted to see if I really do like it. And I only needed, like, a couple classes to apply for nursing school so after I graduated, took the summer off, I went back to -- went back to Foothill and I took my first anatomy and physiology class, and I am so thankful for my anatomy and physiology professor. He has made science and learning about the body so interesting. Like, he is not the typical oh, read these chapters, lecture, have a quiz every -- midterm, final. It's not like that. Like, how he teaches is so different than I'm used to. What he does -- of course there are lectures, but it's all about case studies. Hey, like, this patient is doing this, and what's the diagnosis? Because I think most of his students are going into the nursing field instead of giving you, like, lectures and, like, not knowing how to apply it he skips all of that and wants to apply what you've studied to actual cases.

And after that, I just loved learning about the body.

JANET WEBER: Isn't that interesting the

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difference a professor can make?

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my God 100 percent --

JANET WEBER: From the first time you took anatomy and physiology to the second time.

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my gosh. Yeah. The first time I took it, it was the traditional lecture, read these chapters, and a test. But for my second time I did it, totally different. And it's made learning so much fun. And I'm so grateful to have that opportunity. Because, like, what if I had another class where professor did teach a more traditional rout and that's been really motivating to hey, maybe nursing really is my thing.

Of course what I learned in anatomy and physiology isn't what I learn now in nursing school, but it just kind of makes learning a little bit more fun, and that's what aye learned, too, about learning in general is that you kind of have to make it fun for yourself to just keep studying.

JANET WEBER: I think that's good advice, too.

MONICA PHOUNG: Just to make it fun. But of course in the learning -- learning things that you

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don't want to learn isn't fun at all, but you have to kind of lie to yourself to sometimes to make it fun.

JANET WEBER: Is his name Jeff Schinske?

MONICA PHOUNG: Yes! Yeah. Jeff Schinske. That's his name.

JANET WEBER: Okay.

MONICA PHOUNG: So he's been really motivating. he taught anatomy and physiology twice, like, A and B. It's so nice, and also how he talks is so soft spoken. I took another class with him, and I think it's about equality and professionalism in the healthcare or something like that. That was really interesting class to take, too, where, like, it kind of just makes it more open to, like, diversity in healthcare and how, like, there's a lack of it in healthcare.

JANET WEBER: Mm.

MONICA PHOUNG: So then I finished all my prerequisites. Microbiology, I finished it; chemistry, I finished it; and after I finished my prerequisites, I applied to nursing school. That was definitely a very rough period in my life.

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Just apply. Just apply everywhere.

JANET WEBER: Mm.

MONICA PHOUNG: Where there's a moment where I was kind of discouraged to be a nurse because some of the schools required a TEAS test. It's a very easy test. It's very, like, high school-level exam. But I didn't do well two times when I took it so I was being discouraged. Hey, like, maybe if I can't do this simple test, I can't be a nurse. And that's not a very good way to think because it's, like, an entrance exam. So I was getting discouraged.

But the schools that I did apply to, they didn't require a TEAS exam. And I got into a nursing school now and getting accepted I was kind of shocked a little bit. It's, like, oh, my God, this is happening. Like, my life is going to change just, like, what I'm doing for myself and my career. And yeah. It was very scary. But doing the orientation, and, like, getting things ready for school I kind of just felt, like, hey, like, this is what I'm doing for myself. I worked so hard to get to this point. Like, I cannot give



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up. I only have two years left in my education that I have to put my all into this.

And I'm here now. I'm in school.

JANET WEBER: Which school?

MONICA PHOUNG: I'm going to Azuza Pacific now. When I applied for it, I did not know where it was. I was, like, okay, well, it's in So Cal, so whatever. [indiscernible]

The reason why I chose So Cal versus a Nor Cal school is I kind of wanted to be an independent. Even though I do have my challenges now, like, I love being independent and I love being able to just do things on my own and not have to, like, rely on other people to a certain extent. But I love my freedom now, and the choices that I make is, like, on me, not on everyone else --

JANET WEBER: And you're doing well, and you have one more year --

MONICA PHOUNG: One more year.

JANET WEBER: -- until you finish.

MONICA PHOUNG: Yes.

JANET WEBER: And then you'll be a registered nurse.

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MONICA PHOUNG: Yes. 100 percent. Being in nursing school is -- definitely challenges you a lot. Especially, like, having a learning disability. University level it was okay I could kind of, like, get by. But having, like, so much information thrown at you and having so much workload on just having so much things to do at once that is super overwhelming. And I guess my learning disability has definitely been a challenge, an obstacle, because the test-taking strategies that I've learned in university do not work now. The set of skills that I learned in university does not work now.

So being able to adapt really quickly is a key in trying new things and being open to new things. And I am so grateful for everything I've learned in the past, and having the opportunity to move to So Cal and be in nursing school has been just a blessing in my life.

It's so cheesy to say that, but I don't think I would be here today without the things I've learned in Foothill, in Santa Barbara and the challenges that I've had. Because if I went

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straight from high school to university oh, my God, I 100 percent would have flunked out and dropped out --

JANET WEBER: That's interesting.

MONICA PHOUNG: -- and lost motivation and, like, been so sad. And, like, just be so discouraged, like, what is my purpose here for? But really taking the time to, like, slow down. Like, I don't need to rush my life. Like, I don't need to follow this path. Like, it is hard to kind of compare yourself to other people because that's what, like, everyone's been telling you. But me taking the time to, like, it step by step and not rush to university I'm so happy that I did that.

JANET WEBER: I love that you're saying that because that's one of the reasons that I did this podcast is because sometimes the straight and narrow path is great; you get through it quickly, efficiently. But I think the winding path is often much more enriching.

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my gosh. Yes. I've just learned so much about life, and myself, and life

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is so precious and we're not around that long, I guess. Being reckless sometimes just kind of just take the time to enjoy the little things. Like, I'm 26 now or turning 26 soon, and if I could go back I would of just tried to just enjoy my youth. Just, you know, have fun, and learn things.

JANET WEBER: I love that. That's one of my questions is what would you do differently?

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my gosh --

JANET WEBER: So what you're saying is you would have more fun, put yourself out there more.

MONICA PHOUNG: Yeah. Put myself out there more, and just be open to more things. It's a bit hard when you live in, like, a small little city and also you don't really have that much freedom. But explore a little bit, talk to people, try new things.

JANET WEBER: I'm glad that you did do that because I do remember you getting to a point where you really wanted to try new things, and you did.

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, gosh. Yeah. Yeah, yeah. You don't have to open yourself up, but try out new things and see what you do like and what you

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don't like. I think having just school in your life is very consuming. Like, now -- that's my life right now where school is a huge part of my life. But to kind of figure out who you are first and that's what community college has helped me. If I went straight to university and not knowing how to study, not knowing how to, like, talk to my professors, and not knowing who I am, being in that state where I was so clueless and not knowing how to talk to people, not knowing, like, how to explore, I would have been just alone all the time and not have enjoyed my time at a university.

Going to community college first helped me build that foundation, like, of this is what I'm here to do, this is who I am as a person. But at least I have that path that I -- okay I think this is what I want to do, but I wanted to be able to, like, explore more than that.

JANET WEBER: I love that. How you put that, that community college helped you build the foundation that then you were able to build the rest of your education on.

MONICA PHOUNG: Yeah. Also going to community

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college first is cheaper, too.

JANET WEBER: You would have wasted a lot of money going straight to university.

MONICA PHOUNG: Exactly. Just go to community college first because it's cheaper. Because it's, like, also it's easier because it is a community college level. So more statistics say it's better to go to community college first. But in a more, like, personal, spiritual level, it's good too build that foundation first in, like, who you are as a person.

JANET WEBER: And my last question is: What advice would you have for students that are in the middle of their educational journeys? You did say some things, one was that you would talk to people and access your resources. What else would you advise students?

MONICA PHOUNG: There's a lot. If it's more, like, grade-wise and, like, not knowing, like, how to study, I guess, taking the grades personal -- it's totally normal to take it like hey I'm not doing well in my school. Or testing things out. Hey, like, maybe the test-taking

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strategies that you're taking are, like, maybe not the standard or kind of just try out different ways to study. Try out different ways to do test-taking strategies.

That's something I'm trying to learn now is trying out different things or, like, finding your purpose in life is really just trying out everything and learning about yourself first but also just trying out everything and, like, exploring the world.

JANET WEBER: Mm hmm.

MONICA PHOUNG: And community college is definitely a way to do that because everyone is just as lost as you. Being able to just talk to your classmates and just explore the world.

JANET WEBER: I mean, those were some of the ingredients that led to you being successful.

MONICA PHOUNG: And just talking to everyone. Everyone has their challenges that they're trying to accomplish.

JANET WEBER: I remember that about you. You would talk to everyone, and --

MONICA PHOUNG: Yeah.

*Monica Phoung*

JANET WEBER: -- I loved that about you. You would talk to everyone, and find out their stories, and what advice they had, and being curious, and open to new opportunities.

MONICA PHOUNG: Yeah. That's why I felt like my values were. I love helping people. I love just listening to people and I like giving other people the space to be vulnerable and talking. So I felt like I wanted just to kind of help them. And it's so cheesy but, like, kind of finding your values and knowing, like, what kind of motivates you and then what makes you, like, get up in the morning. And, like, there are some classes that you hate taking. Like I hate chemistry. But I don't have chemistry be the thing that stops my passion. I didn't have to take chemistry. I didn't have to take bio chem to be a nurse, but I did it anyways. I knew I wanted to be a nurse in the future.

So if you have a goal in mind, if you have a dream, don't let anything stop you. You know. There are some things that you can't do, but if it's possible just try doing it.



*Monica Phoung*

Of course failure is an option, but why not try?

JANET WEBER: Like you did.

MONICA PHOUNG: Yeah. Exactly. Like, during community college --

Oh. Another thing I liked about community college is you're able to test out different classes. I took random classes in community college to try to figure out what I wanted to do, and there wasn't any losses or anything, but it was great to have that experience. Like, hey I definitely don't want a career in science. I definitely don't want to be an engineer. I don't like physics, so I'm not going to do anything about that.

So that's what I liked about community college.

JANET WEBER: I think that's a good place to end.

MONICA PHOUNG: Oh, my gosh. Thank you so much, Janet.

JANET WEBER: Thank you, Monica.

[Music Playing]