



**Brandi Miller, 30, Lubbock (higher education)**

I actually found out on Facebook first. I was scrolling through and saw when the news stations started releasing it all. So I went to check my email and I did receive an email that morning saying that they would be shutting Virginia College doors Friday, and this was Wednesday, so two days later they were going to be shutting the doors and that was going to be it.

I just felt like I had failed and wasted time, I guess. I was trying not to stay in school very long because I mean it's crazy with four boys. And so anyways, I was really hurt and angry, and the goals I had set for myself for Virginia College was to stay on the dean's and president's list and I had made straight As the entire time, and so it really just broke my heart that I had pushed so hard, and it was over just like that.

I do not think I would be in school today if it was not for the help and just the encouragement of Catholic charities and Buckner. I didn't want to quit and have my kids see that. I wanted them to know that things happen, but you can still choose to be positive about it and move on, and I know this is what I wanted to do. I want to show them no matter how old you are that you can accomplish whatever you put your mind to, and so that is what my mindset is, is that I want to complete college with a degree and show them that you can do this under any circumstances.

Just keep pushing forward and finish.