

Natasha Lewis Testimonial

I'm a 24-year-old college freshman and employers will notice that. Many students start their college career directly after high school. I was given only one option: I was allowed to wait. My parents are the ones who fought through hard times to be successful. My mother, who was a mother of two by the time she was 21, graduated nursing school. My father, a high school drop out, received an Associate's with flying colors. They pulled themselves up by their bootstraps and taught me to do the same. However, they pulled themselves too high. By the time I graduated high school, my parents were in such a high income bracket that they were expected to pay for my college as well.

When I was finally bestowed the financial aid I needed at the age of 24, I enrolled. Let me tell you that I am scared. Every week, I hear about another one of my classmates who may be dropping out due to financial struggle. It is smart, hard-working, young Vermonters who are being forced from a path of success and contribution due to the ever-climbing cost of college. It is only hurting the workforce to withhold education from those willing to fight for it.