

NEK Day at the Statehouse 1.28.2020

Becca Munkelwitz, Alum of Northern Vermont University-Lyndon

Hello, my name is Becca Munkelwitz. I graduated from Lyndon in spring of 2018.

I went to Lyndon a bit later than the average student, this was because Lyndon was “part 2” of a plan I had in place for 5 years. An agenda to get my degree, have a career, and with the least amount of debt possible.

I started my college career at 17, I was homeschooled and a first-generation college student. My family was very poor, and to be completely honest, college was never something I believed possible. I was never going to be able to afford it.

When I got a free class at CCV in high-school, I realized I desperately wanted to be a graphic designer, and I desperately wanted a career. My only option to effectively achieve this was to have a degree. I had no help figuring it out, it's not like I had high-school counselors. And, while my parents were super supportive, they had no idea how to help. So, I took the initiative to reach out to advisors at CCV, and we developed a plan where I would take 1-2 classes a semester and pay for it in installments. This allowed me to pay for my Associates Degree entirely out of pocket, it took a lot longer, and I had to work full-time for 5 years to get there, but I had no debt.

Probably 2 years into this journey, I determined Lyndon was the best next step. They had the best prices for Vermonters, they would accept all of my credits, and I knew through the grapevine that they had a really good design department.

Lyndon was exactly what I needed, the classes were small, the professors were attentive, got to know me, went out of their way to help me get my degree in 2 years. The setting was gorgeous. Classic Vermont countryside, quiet and comfortable with plenty of recreation. It wasn't a party for me, it was a beautiful place that nurtured my education and allowed me to meet people who weren't only amazing friends, but taught me about the world outside of Vermont and made me appreciate where I live more than ever.

Lyndon not only provided me the building blocks I would need in my career, but also allowed me the privilege of getting real life work experience. I attribute my time interning in the communications office to my success since graduation. Classroom time teaches you the essentials, but nothing can prepare you more than being in the field. Lyndon helped me fill my resume, which got me job lined-up at The Vermont Flannel Company, before I even graduated.

The Vermont Flannel Company is a growing, local, family-owned business. I got a position as a graphic designer, and within a year I was elevated to Web Manager. Another Lyndon alum was hired at the same time as me, we were both hired as graphic designers. The two of us now entirely run the marketing department for the entire company; website, advertising, social media, design, you name it, we cover it. Since we took over, the web sales and brand awareness have skyrocketed!

Vermont Flannel is proud to have hired a number of NVU and other VSC students.

NVU made it possible for me to successfully live and work in Vermont. I feel proud of what I have been able to achieve since graduation. It was a long road, but I was able to graduate with minimal debt, and a career. I knew what I wanted and NVU was a crucial step in the puzzle that allowed me to get where I am today.

Thank you for your time.