“Going with the flow” something that is easier said than done. My story starts off way back before I was even born. My mother and father for 9 years struggled to have children. This was heartbreaking for my parents at least that’s the story I was told. It wasn’t until I came along and two years later almost on the same day came my little sister. Growing up with my built in best friend was amazing and having loving parents was the cherry on top. For as long as I can remember my parents would take my sister and I to Mexico where my parents were born and raised. The small town/village was and is something that I carry with me everyday. Going to a place where you feel at home and safe is an astonishing feeling. This is where my love for science and engineering was born. An older cousin of mine enrolled to obtain her Bachelors of Mechanical Engineering at CSUN would conduct small little science experiments. My favorite being outing milk into a bowl with soap and food coloring to see how the hydrophobic molecules of the soap break up non-polar fat molecules. We would be covered in milk and our parents would be upset with us because of our ruined new outfits. To her this was a little elementary experiment but to me it was a new found passion to know how things work. Fast forward to my senior of high school where everyone in my small 39 graduating class had a pretty good idea of what they wanted to do. Yet there was me who was oblivious to what I wanted to do with my life. This gave me a great deal of stress as I had no idea what to only knowing that I wanted to go to college. I’m high school I loved math and just like my cousin I was a nerd for anything related to STEM. I decided to enroll myself at the College of Southern Idaho where I had began the path to discovery of what I wanted to do with my life. Along the way I met amazing friends and colleagues that I knew would become my support system. But still I had the self doubt of what I wanted to do and did not feel good enough to be in higher education. I switched my major three times in the span of a semester because I was unsure of what to do. It wasn’t until my Calculus II

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professor showed me another side of mathematics that I began to discover my passion. She told me that math doesn’t have to be hard but it’s rather a language of how the universe works and this gave me something that I have not had in a while. From my peers in high school telling me I wouldn’t make it in school and that I would just go to work in agriculture to someone who believed in me. This was life changing because for once in my life I knew where I was supposed to be. I decided to switch my major to engineering and began my degree work. But still whenever I had gotten a good mark on an exam and assignment the small feeling of imposter syndrome hit because it felt unreal what I was doing. I then graduated with my associates of science in engineering which to me felt unreal. The support of my peers, faculty, staff and family are what got me through it because again walking on that stage I felt as if I didn’t deserve that degree. I then transferred to Boise State in the fall of 2022. Where I started my Civil Engineering course work. Going to a much larger institution was hard because seeing so many people with the same interest as me was terrifying to me. The fear of being just a number was heartbreaking to me but how wrong I was. The program is small at Boise State and the support from both faculty and staff alike has been amazing. They all go above and beyond to watch students be successful. I had shared my story with my statics professor and she told me that I was a searcher because I never gave up trying to get the right answer on a homework problem or on an objective quiz. She told me the feelings of being an imposter were my own self doubt kicking in and that I had to believe in the person that I was becoming. From time to time I still get those feelings but I remind myself that I’m a searcher and I must go with the flow.

Thank you.

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