After coming back to school, I still faced the financial problem and I was unsure if I could register for classes. Luckily, I found out that I was eligible for AB 540 and California Dream Act. AB 540 gave me exemption from paying the non-resident fee and the California Dream Act gave me financial aid. This allowed me to focus on studying during the weekdays and work part-time during the weekends. Although I was no longer able to support my family as much as I did before, I was earning enough to pay for the rest of my tuition fees, textbooks, and other necessities.

I faced another problem as I was few semesters in. I wanted to get ready for transfer as quickly as possible, but my registration day was far behind compared to other students and I was not able to register for a lot of classes. As I was worried about the amount of time it would take me to transfer, I happened to see the announcement for EOPS on my school’s website. EOPS is a program that helps students with financial, linguistic or educational difficulties and one of the big benefits is the primary registration. I realized I might be eligible and turned my application in. Luckily, my application was accepted and I was able to get the primary registration.

I had given up and had no hope for my future. I was depressed and my mother felt guilty about not able to support me through college, which made me feel guilty as well. These programs not only gave me the opportunity to study again but also gave both me and my mother a hope for a better future.