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BIS

College was not a topic discussed very often in my family. It was not something that was pushed or discussed or a goal that was set for us as children and High School students. My mother is a college graduate and my father is in a trade, but they both said I needed to make my own choices.

My senior year in high school I took the tour at a couple of schools (I was not so sure about 'community' living arrangements) and went to a few meetings where college representatives came to our high school and told us how great their institution was.

I ended up selecting Baker College and the Teaching Program. I went as far as the overnight orientation, selecting dorm roommates, picking fall classes and parent orientation.

Two weeks before the semester was supposed to start I was offered a management position at the retailer I had been working for. At eighteen years of age, \$15.00 per hour and a management title were pretty spectacular. There was a catch however; the mall I worked at was over an hour away from the campus and I had to work forty hours per week. It was either school or a management job. I took the management job and decided I go to community college.

Schoolcraft College is where I earned my Associates Degree in General Studies while working full time. During my two years at Schoolcraft I was offered a job at a major airline as a flight attendant. I was given the opportunity to travel all over at a young age. How

great this is, I thought! It was great and I even received a few promotions, the last promotion was as a Recruiter. Along with several other people, I was tasked with finding new talent for the airline and helping make it a success!

This is how I discovered my career passion. I have had two other Recruiting positions including creating a measurable recruiting process for one of Michigan's leading companies. I have been successful without a bachelor's degree for the last seven years. I have only been turned down once for not having the required degree. I have been blessed in this. I worked so many hours and so hard, that a bachelor's degree was the last thing on my mind. Not to mention, there are not many degree options that are 100% online.

This is where Ferris State comes into the story. I recruit executive level candidates for General Electric. GE has over 130 years of history, is global, has several different businesses (aviation, healthcare, locomotive, electric, government, etc.) and 90% of the associates have at least a master's degree. I am interviewing candidates who are graduates of Ivy League universities and they always ask me where I received my degrees from. Keep in mind I only have my associate's. This became irritating for me to answer.

I started to check out online degree programs in Michigan and could only find business, marketing, Hybrid degrees and masters programs as a fully online degree option. I have had extensive experience in Marketing and Business operations as a recruiter and felt it would be a waste of money to go to school for something I have real life experience in. I came across the BIS program while using Google for online degrees in Michigan. I decided to check out the website. I was very pleased to see the Bachelor of Integrated Studies and what it has to offer listed as an option.

The next step was to apply and ask questions about the program; specifically how it will work. I am sure we can all guess the end result. I am going to focus on English as my

“major” for the program. Since I talk all day to people, handle resume reviews, read resumes and send a lot emails; why not English? Plus, I love the subject. BIS, here I am.