

# Aldina Hibovic



Aldina is an adult student alumni of UNC Charlotte, who found her affinity of education through resources offered by the university and supportive professors. She graduated with a Communication Studies degree and holds a Minor in Public Health and Psychology. She shares with us some great insight on what it's like to be an adult student, and how your experiences mean a lot to your journey toward your degree!

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“I started school when all of my high school friends on Facebook were graduating. I often thought to myself, “this will take forever”! But, here I am, a month away from graduating, and even after all of the sacrifices adult students often make to go back to school, I believe it was all worth it.

I started at CPCC first, working full-time and taking as many classes as I could, and in 2013 transferred to UNCC because of the Health Communication and Public Health tracks. During my last year at UNCC, I really took advantage of many more resources offered at the school, such as: being in clubs, community service, honor societies, scholarship opportunities, and these are all things that have been offered to me by the OASES office.

One of the best parts of my academic journey at UNCC is the fact that I have had such supportive professors, at least in my Communication classes. When they see that you are willing to put in the work, they go above and beyond to help you, make you feel that you can really do anything, and even push you to do more even when you don't think you can. That's what educational institutions should do, and that's what we all should do for each other.

My advice to adult students who are returning to school is that they should make school their priority and most importantly be committed. As adults, we often have to work to live and support our families, but your education should be your number one priority. Everything else in life aligns itself with that, and next thing you know it's over and you're ordering commencement tickets! Another piece of advice is to believe in yourself. You bring a lot to the table as an adult student and your professors will see that, and sometimes even expect more out of you (which is a compliment)!

With graduation approaching in December, I have looked into being a Health Coach, or perhaps going to get my Masters; I enjoy guiding and advising others on a right path, whatever that might be. I have been working closely with some of my professors and contacts at my internship site to see where I will fit in. One of my goals would be to stay in the educational system, as a student and as a staff member.”

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We hope you've enjoyed reading more about one of our many talented adult student alums, Aldina! If you are interested in sharing your journey or success story with us, please visit: <http://oases.uncc.edu/student-information/student-success-stories> to learn how.