

2019 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE



Claudia Ellis

Education

“Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another”

-John Dewey

Claudia Ellis was born in Mexico. She moved to San Antonio in 2007. Her plans were to continue her education, but she needed to learn English first. She signed up to take an English class at Palo Alto College, but she had to drop out because her father could not pay the bills by himself. Shortly after, she started her first job selling produce. She had to wake up at 5 a.m. and work 10-hour days, six days a week.

Her second job was at a hotel as a housekeeper. Some days she had to clean 20 rooms in eight hours. In 2010, she got married and had three kids. She knew that without a degree, the only jobs she could get would be like the ones she had before. She started learning English with her husband and in 2016 she received her GED from SAC Empowerment Center. She enrolled at San Antonio College in fall of 2016 and now will graduate in the spring of 2019. She is going to transfer to Texas A&M San Antonio in the summer of 2019 to pursue a bachelor’s degree in bilingual education. She is the first generation in her family to go to college and she wants to make a path that her kids can follow where higher education is not just a dream but a reality.

