

Desiree Guzman, Air Force Veteran Soaring Toward Success

Congratulations to Desiree Guzman, who walked across the stage on Friday, July 14, 2017, at the Excelsior College Commencement Ceremony and received her Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts degree.

Guzman started taking classes with Excelsior in October 2016, transferring in 130 credits from her other academic programs and military training.



“Because I already knocked out most of my core competencies with my associate degrees, I only had to take 5 more courses to complete my degree.” In the Air Force, Guzman was an Urdu linguist — the official language of Pakistan. During her time in the Air Force, she attended school in California where she learned the language, which also counted as college credit. “When I was done with that, I went to the Air Force Community College. I pursued an associate degree in intelligence studies. Then, I got another associate degree in Urdu Studies. At that point, I said to myself that it was time for me to just go ahead and push forward and finish my

bachelor’s degree.”

As a first-generation college graduate of Hispanic descent, Guzman noted “Education is extremely important in my family”. Guzman is the oldest of her siblings, so she felt it was important to set a positive example for her siblings. Her entire family was at commencement to help her celebrate her wonderful academic achievement.

33% of graduates this year are members of the U.S. military and 827 graduates are U.S. veterans. 882 graduates were from New York State but all 50 states were represented as well as DC, Guam, Puerto Rico, and 20 other nations. The average age of the Class of 2017 was 37.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR GRADUATES!

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