



Family, friends, and co-workers: Support is the key to success.

You've dreamed of earning an advanced degree. Now you're ready to take the next step, which means talking to the people you'll need to help you make it happen—your network of family, friends, and co-workers who rely on you, and on whom you rely for everything from advice and pep talks to helping hands and comforting words.

Expect a range of reactions when you ask for their support. But don't be surprised when you learn that their ultimate desire is for your success, happiness, and well-being—the same things Walden University wants for you.

Sharing Your Goals and Needs with Family and Friends

Below are some things you might want to discuss with those in your circle as you prepare to embark on your new educational journey.

- Your desire and commitment to pursue a new degree ... because for them to get behind you, they need to know that you're on board yourself.
- Their thoughts on the focus of your studies and how it relates to your current field or the field you plan to enter ... because it can be helpful to hear validation from others about your strengths.
- Your personal reasons for pursuing an advanced degree ... because what's important to you is important to them.
- Your desire to be the best role model for your children ... because they're going to follow in your footsteps.
- Your own concerns, and theirs, about time commitments and resources ... because your family, friends, and colleagues depend on you.
- The many forms that support can take ... because the people who care want to know how they can be, even in small ways, part of the big picture.
- How much their support means to you ... because moral and practical support helps every step of the way.

Above and Beyond Award

Walden is committed to you and your goals. And we recognize that others are committed to you as well. Because their support means so much to you, it means a lot to us at Walden. Before every commencement, we ask graduating students to nominate someone whose help made it possible for them to achieve their goal. The most outstanding of the nominees receive our Above and Beyond Award.

Alyson Kluskowski, then 14, was the first recipient of the Above and Beyond Award, in 2006. After her father died, Alyson volunteered to help with her younger brother so that her mother, Sandy, could pursue her dream of earning an M.S. in Education.

The latest Above and Beyond recipients are recognized for their important contributions to Walden students' achievements.

George L. Bowers was nominated by fiancée Cynthia Hawkins after his enrollment in Walden inspired her to return to school after 20 years and earn her own B.S. in Business Administration. Cynthia credits George for pushing her to become the first in her family to get a degree—and for her son planning to be the second.

TerraDiane Clancey was nominated by M.S. in Education graduate Thomas J. Henderson, who says, "I had the love of my life standing behind me the whole way and helping me to become a better teacher than I ever thought possible."

Thomas Hendrickson, one of the first graduates of the M.S. program in Nursing, nominated his wife of 32 years, **Barbara**, saying, "If I had the power and authority, I would put her name next to mine on the diploma."

"**James Lawrence Lusa**, you rock," says his wife. She nominated him for juggling his own work schedule to keep their home and family "running like a well-oiled machine" and for supporting her in countless other ways along what she calls her "journey toward Jennifer V. Lusa, Ph.D."



"There were times when I didn't think I would make it through the program, but George was always there to encourage me."

—Cynthia Hawkins



Dr. Stephanie Thankappan earned a Ph.D. in Applied Management and Decision Sciences in 2004.

Family and Group Tuition Reductions

If you and a family member, friend, or colleague share a common goal of higher education, consider enrolling together. There are countless stories of people forging stronger bonds and gaining new respect for each other's strengths.

The shared experience and support will last a lifetime and help save money. A 25 percent reduction is available on all tuition and fees (excluding residency room and board) to the spouse, parent, or child of an enrolled student who is paying equal or higher tuition. There are also tuition reductions available for groups of five or more who enroll from the same organization.

Call 866-492-5336 for more information.

Not valid for Tennessee residents.