

Where Are They Now?

What is your name?

Natalie O'Connor

Where do you currently live?

I live in San Francisco, CA.

What year did you graduate from Brookville High School?

I graduated in 2006.

Did you attend and graduate from the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (CTC)?

Yes

What was your program of study at MVCTC?

Graphic Commercial Art

What is your current Occupation?

I am employed with Expensify in marketing. I manage, create content, and engage with the audience on all social media outlets for Expensify. I also manage a team of people working on pushing our bottom-up adoption sales model to the next level.

What was your post high school education or training?

Sinclair Community College - Associates of Applied Sciences, Visual Communication Design

University of Dayton - Bachelor of Fine Arts, Visual Communication Design

What was your favorite high school course?

As a MVCTC graduate, I will say, without hesitation, my graphic commercial art courses were my favorite. I was given the opportunity to spend four hours of my day focusing on creativity.

What do today's students need to know?

When I think of what students should consider as they move towards high school graduation and a successful career, I offer the following: 1. Financial planning is no joke; 2. Meet everyone. Ask questions. See where they can lead you; and 3. Don't forget where you came from, but never forget where you're going.

As you leave the nest your parents built for you over the last 18 years, financial security should be a top priority. We all want nice things, a great car, or the newest iPhone. We can have those things by being smart, literally. Winning scholarships through BHS and MVCTC gave me the funds to graduate from Sinclair without paying a dime. Continuing to strive for above average grades gave me the opportunity to apply for and receive the largest transfer scholarship amount awarded by the University of Dayton. During my undergrad, I was employed by a company who offered tuition assistance. I graduated with my BFA in 2011 and zero college debt.

Every person in your life serves a purpose. It is up to you to recognize the purpose and utilize it. Do all this as the humble humans we were raised to be and expect to pay it forward. I designed a t-shirt for Adobe because I helped a woman find her way on the T train in Boston... meet everyone, see where they can take you.

Brookville, Ohio is a special place to grow up. You will graduate alongside most of the peers you started kindergarten with. Our experiences within the walls of BHS will be ones you keep close to your heart, but the challenges you face on the journey you embark upon after graduation will define you and how you live the rest of your life. Scary, right? Don't let coming from a small town limit your foresight.

