

I am Rabie “Robbie” Al-Shaikh, I came to in San Diego 33 years ago after my family emigrated here from the Middle East during the Gulf War. I am a first generation college student and knew from a young age that having a higher education was very important. After graduating high school, I went on to enroll at Cuyamaca College. I went on my own to enroll and wanted to expand my knowledge.

While at Cuyamaca College, I started off by obtaining an Associate’s in Science for Automotive Technology. I worked in the auto industry for quite some time and found that I was very good at customer service and wanted to expand on that. I went back to Cuyamaca where I later obtained my Associate’s in Business Administration. Several years later I actually ended up working at Cuyamaca College in their Business Administration department as one of the College Cashiers.

While working there, I decided to go back to college and complete several more degrees which highlight Business Management, Business Economics, as well as Communications. All of these fields that I studied have aided me to master my skills and to better assist people I communicated with on a daily basis. I have also been able to build strong relationships with other departments to better assist students in need.

I have greatly enjoyed working at Cuyamaca College and being able to help others has been a great highlight for me. Our college has a very diverse population. And considering that our community has one of the largest Middle Eastern populations in the United States, I feel that it has been a great asset to aid and assist students on getting to the next step in their educational journey. Sometimes just being able to tell someone who is lost what their next stop should be can make or break the journey. I do my best to direct students to the appropriate departments as needed as well as to help them with any cashiering questions that they may have.

I applied to National University because it has a large positive reputation in San Diego for their amazing programs and being able to work with their students to obtain their degrees. Knowing that I can still work full time and also work on getting my bachelors is such a great blessing. There are a lot of other programs that are not as student oriented and don’t work too well with those of us with full time jobs or a busy life. National was the best option I saw, and it was also great to learn that they have been around for more than 50 years helping people grow. I have had several friends and colleagues tell me how great their programs are and how beneficial it was to them for obtaining their degrees. I feel that National University will be that big stepping stone I need to grow in my career and in my life.

I have always wanted to get my bachelor’s degree, but due to other responsibilities in my life I have always had to put that on the backburner. Having this opportunity will surely help me grow into a stronger person. I plan on staying at Cuyamaca College and using my skills to grow within the college so that I can better assist those in need that are in my community.