

Distinguished Graduate

2024



Dominique Rivera

ANTHROPOLOGY

“I’m not saying I’m gonna change the world, but I guarantee that I will spark the brain that will change the world.”

Tupac Shakur

Originally from San Antonio, Dominique graduated from high school in 2010, nurturing a persistent aspiration for higher education. As a young “teen mom,” the unique challenges stemming from an unexpected pregnancy during her senior year posed distinctive hurdles. The idea of pursuing higher education in the same year she embraced parenthood was met with denial and discouragement, accompanied by well-intentioned suggestions that she should stay home and prioritize caring for her child.

It wasn’t until she received a supportive nudge from her partner, oldest daughter, and mother that she finally embarked on this transformative journey. Commencing her college adventure in fall 2022 marked a monumental milestone, representing her first academic pursuit in nearly 13 years.

Presently, she finds herself not merely thriving but excelling at San Antonio College. In defying societal expectations and overcoming the inherent obstacles of being a young parent, she proudly concluded her first semester with not only a flawless 4.0 GPA but also a coveted spot on the President’s List. This achievement surpasses mere academic success; it stands as a profound testament to her resilience and unwavering determination to defy the odds.