



December 2021

Letter to My Younger Self

Dear Kelsey,

I am writing to you from the future, just a few days before you graduate from UNO. I know right now you have a lot of questions about what's ahead over the next 4 years, but first let me say congratulations! We did it. We moved away to a different state and away from our friends and family. You had to start all over again when you had no one and didn't know anyone. You chose an amazing University to get your degree in the career that has been your dream since the age of 12.

The first day at UNO, your first class of Professionalism & Ethics of Interpreting, will change your life. Your teacher, Dr. Julie Delkamiller, will be the person that changes your life; and you will have no idea how much she will guide, nurture, encourage, and drive you to reach the potential that you know that you have. You also encounter some of the most amazing deaf teachers that Nebraska has to offer. And you will get to be involved with Allies for Sign Language. In this club at UNO, you get to meet so many wonderful deaf/hard of hearing people that become your friends.

The experience at UNO gave you lifelong friends, future colleagues, connections to the interpreting field, relationships with professionals, confidence, and top-notch education. You will learn so much, but it's going to take many sleepless nights, blood, sweat, tears, and a lot of sacrifices. You will have support from Jake, your future husband, your friends and family. Dr. Julie Delkamiller will also help, support, and understand that you're doing your best. Through it all, you accomplished what you set out to do.

You're a college graduate and now you get to move on to your next big adventure. Just remember, you have wanted this for most of your life; it's time to show everyone and yourself that you belong here. Being able to serve the deaf/hard of hearing community will be worth all of the sweat, blood, and tears that is ahead of you. UNO is going to change your life for the better.

Now, make sure to have a great time, learn a lot, and experience everything that will make you the person you want to be in the future.

Love,
Kelsey