

Elizabeth Pylant

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Introductory Speech

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Elizabeth Pylant. I live in a wonderful small town in South Alabama named Citronelle. It is the same small town where I went to high school. I am a wife, a bonus mom and a daughter of the Most High King. I am currently pursuing my associates degree in Business Administration at Huntsville Bible College. I chose business management because I want to gain the knowledge of business and finance that I will need to help successfully run a Christ centered drug rehab facility with my husband one day. To me the road to success includes hard work, determination, sacrifice and obedience. Success is not just obtaining a degree but truly gaining the knowledge the degree courses present and using that knowledge to lead others to redemption, sobriety and to Christ through our rehab facility.

To me perseverance means to push through any obstacles that come my way, to push myself even when I am tired and things seem impossible and to remember that I truly can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. My first experience with perseverance was at the age of 12 when my dad was murdered. He left my mom behind to take care of myself and my three younger siblings. Things were tough, but I never saw my mom give up through things that would have crushed most. We had to move into a one-bedroom trailer that had no working bathroom and all of our belongings had to be stored in the one room and our now family of five shared one mattress on the floor of the living room. We had to use our grandmother's bathroom during the day and if we needed a restroom at night we just had to go outside. It was physically, mentally

and emotionally tough, but I never saw my mother give up. Three months later my mom found us a home to rent and worked day and night to provide for a roof over our heads. Her strength and perseverance helped me to persevere through that situation too, it helped me keep my younger siblings encouraged during that time. Persevering through this terrible situation helped me to know that I could make it through anything life threw my way. It has helped me know that I can graduate and obtain my degree even if it takes working day and night to get it. My husband's encouraging, uplifting words and unwavering support during this pursuit of my degree help keep me motivated and my eye on the goal. Graduating is on my road of perseverance to the greater goal of having the knowledge I need to be successful in opening and running our rehab facility.

This is not my first attempt at a college degree and one of the challenges that I know I may face on this journey to getting my degree is self-sabotage. I am great at coming out of the gate strong and then getting tired and distracted and then talking myself into giving less effort which ultimately causes me to fail. I have done differently this time. I believe that is because this time I recognize that this has been a fault of mine and I am choosing to do things differently this time. I have managed to keep a 4.0 GPA through two full semesters. However, I have encountered a few different obstacles already this season, one is time management. Like most spouses and parents in college, I have a lot of things in my life that require my full attention. Learning how to manage my time and not let the most important things fall through the cracks has been a bit difficult. I have to try daily to decide what things are most important and absolutely need my time and attention and which things can possibly be delegated or set to the side for a different time. One of the reasons I chose Huntsville Bible College is it's online courses offered and the ability to have flexibility with my class schedule. This flexibility has

really helped to keep me on track with successfully completing my classes and getting closer to my degree. I am more determined to succeed than I ever have been before because I know without a doubt that this degree course and this college is something the Lord has called me to do. I know that getting this degree and obtaining this knowledge will not only help me and my family but will eventually help others through the ministry Christ has called me to. My success story after HCB looks like me taking my degree and getting a job in the rehab administration field and gaining even more knowledge to enable me and my husband to open a rehab facility when and where God opens the door.