

EXTRA CREDIT

A SUMMER & WINTER SESSIONS PODCAST

Episode 11 Transcript

00:00:02 Introduction

Welcome to Extra Credit, hosted by the Rutgers University Office of Summer and Winter Sessions. Listen to hear from students, as they share their experiences at Rutgers and some tips on how to navigate a condensed semester. Also gain the perspective of professors and learn more about the courses they teach.

00:00:18 Kylie

So, I'm going to start off by asking you to tell me a little bit about yourself.

00:00:23 Jelinette Cadavid

OK, my name is Jelinette Cadavid. I am 41 years old and I'm basically a single mother. I was married for many years about, I want to say 20, and I decided that after my divorce I wanted to continue my education.

00:00:43 Jelinette Cadavid

Right now, I'm a full-time employee for the judiciary as a judicial clerk, which means I work in a courtroom setting with the judge, and I'm also a full-time student at Rutgers University.

00:00:53 Kylie

So why did you choose the major that you're studying?

00:00:57 Jelinette Cadavid

OK, so my background is working in law and obviously working in criminal law. I decided to, basically, like I have an interest in law but as well, I have also the same interest in administrative work, so I know that working in human resources they do a little bit of both. You're doing administrative work and doing the, you know, following the law, the state laws, policies, regulations.

00:01:25 Jelinette Cadavid

So, I decided that because this degree and this major met both of my passions, and that's why I decided to pursue it.

00:01:34 Kylie

What type of law is your favorite?

00:01:36 Jelinette Cadavid

I love employment law to be honest with you. You know anything that has to do with workers' compensation, 'cause that's what I did for about 8 years as a paralegal.

00:01:45 Jelinette Cadavid

Uh, but anything that has to do with you know the employee rights as well as employers, policies, regulations. That's what interests me the most.

00:01:56 Kylie

So why did you choose to come to Rutgers?

00:01:58 Jelinette Cadavid

Well, OK, so it first started... when I decided to go back to school, my, you know, my inclination was go, return to school and I didn't know what I was meeting up against. So, I started with community college. I decided to start there. I said, let me finish my Associates.

00:02:17 Jelinette Cadavid

And then from there I can make a decision on what four-year college I can then attend.

00:02:20 Jelinette Cadavid

My boyfriend is an alumni at Rutgers University. And then, I also have plenty of friends and coworkers that all have attended Rutgers and they've all spoken so highly of the university, the faculty, staff and classes. And I decided to choose Rutgers.

00:02:41 Jelinette Cadavid

Rutgers—Camden was my first choice, but because of my major, I know that New Brunswick was the one that carried it. So I decided with New Brunswick.

00:02:50 Kylie

That's great.

00:02:52 Kylie

So where did you attend prior to Rutgers?

00:02:54 Jelinette Cadavid

I went to- I'm from - originally from Atlantic County, New Jersey in Mays Landing. I went to Atlantic Cape Community College.

00:03:03 Kylie

I went to the County College in Morris before coming to Rutgers. So, can you tell me a little bit about your Rutgers summer session experience?

00:03:12 Jelinette Cadavid

Oh, I had a wonderful time. Let me just say that it was well, very well organized. I took summer classes in 2020, which was last summer.

00:03:22 Jelinette Cadavid

I did, you know, during COVID, of course. So, all of the classes - also all of my classes have been online, by the way. That's what I prefer. I work at my own leisure in time. I know that now I've been doing a couple of, you know, like synchronous courses, but in the summer it was all three of my classes were online.

00:03:42 Jelinette Cadavid

So, I took two classes that were working - Working Women in American Society and I also took Organizational Behavior and Work. Now I also decided to take the Academy which is through- it's called the Bold Leadership Academy. So, I did that as well.

00:04:00 Jelinette Cadavid

Uh, I did three. The two courses that I took for my major, which again, it was the Working Women in American Society, and also the Organizational Behavior and Work that was part of my core for my degree.

00:04:11 Jelinette Cadavid

I want to say that I loved it. Absolutely loved it. Very well organized. Both professors were amazing, which was Professor Lupo and Professor Gia.

00:04:19 Jelinette Cadavid

Uh, the summer courses is a little bit different, more challenging because it goes a little bit faster.

00:04:27 Jelinette Cadavid

Uh, you don't really get a break, but I like that. I love challenge, everything. Like I said, if you had any questions, professors were amazing.

00:04:36 Jelinette Cadavid

You can email them. They got back to they- they respond immediately. I have no, absolutely no complaints.

00:04:44 Kylie

And now, before COVID did you commute to Rutgers at all, or all of your classes have been online straight through?

00:04:50 Jelinette Cadavid

All my classes have been online straight through. It's now that, if it wasn't for COVID, this semester I probably would have had to go in person, but I lucked out. Because I honestly, I love online classes. I really do.

00:05:05 Jelinette Cadavid

I know that it's, you know, like a lot of people choose to go in person, which you know, to each their own. I'm just so fortunate that Rutgers University was able to offer online courses as well.

00:05:16 Jelinette Cadavid

We all have, you know, families. We have work and knowing that I can eliminate the commuting is huge, it's very huge, especially like, you know, I work day shift.

00:05:32 Jelinette Cadavid

So, if I'm going to commute to a college, I would have to take night courses. And it's a little challenging when, of course, we all know that rush hour is around 4:00 or 5:00 in the afternoon, so that would mean that I would be stuck in traffic and I would you know, like it's almost like you're rushing, you know, like your day is basically rushing to get to classes, making sure you get on there - get there on time, your parking.

00:05:56 Jelinette Cadavid

That eliminates all the frustration, all the stress and now all I had to do is - You know, especially synchronous, synchronous online, it's not that bad to me. Even that is better, because all you're doing is "OK. Seven o'clock class, go on five minutes prior sign up, sign in, ready for the course."

00:06:15 Jelinette Cadavid

So, for me, it looked like, you know, it eliminates the stress at the age that I'm at where I'm at, and being a full-time employee, I think that throughout the day I'm already dealing with so much socialism, you know, like social, socializing. I'm sorry, socializing, to then go into, rushing into school and doing the same thing all over again.

00:06:35 Jelinette Cadavid

I can take - I can, I can really take advantage of the break.

00:06:39 Kylie

Yeah, that's great. Uhm, so is there anything else that you would like to add about your journey to Rutgers, your Rutgers experience, or even just your career?

00:06:48 Jelinette Cadavid

Uhm, I would like to say that I'm very fortunate to have been a part of Rutgers University. The experience I've had with them, it's amazing. I'm part of the, you know, the Douglass women.

00:07:02 Jelinette Cadavid

I, you know there, there's so many things that they've offered that I've taken advantage of. For instance, like, like I said, last summer I attended the BOLD Leadership Program, the Academy.

00:07:12 Jelinette Cadavid

And then during the fall semester, I also did Seeking Success, which basically focuses more on helping people, you know, individuals like prepare themselves for future, like their career that they're - they

want to endeavor. And also, the fact that, even if you are in your career, I think that a lot of - a lot of the stuff that they, they touched base on was leadership skills.

00:07:38 Jelinette Cadavid

You know, like those things that are very important, even if you have a career and you want to excel in your position, it's - it's a wonderful thing to learn. You know, there were things that I learned that, you know, like they mentioned and they taught that I had no idea. And it honestly helped me a lot in being more confident, more secure with myself, and because of that I think that I really, you know, not too long ago, I landed a position.

00:08:05 Jelinette Cadavid

I'm going to have, I have a position that's waiting for me as soon as I graduate with Amazon, and I think that the Seeking Success and the Leadership course that I took helped tremendously to prepare me for those.

00:08:17 Kylie

Wow, thank you. Thank you so much for saying that, that's very interesting. And congratulations on the position. Yeah, thank you so much for taking the time out to sit through this interview.

00:08:27 Kylie

We appreciate it.

00:08:28 Jelinette Cadavid

Oh, I, I'm honored. I was very surprised when I received the email. But hey, like you know, like anything to get the word out there that this has been one of the best experiences of my life and I'm so happy that I chose Rutgers.

00:08:44 Outro

Thanks for listening and we'll catch you next time on Extra Credit.