



SOUTH TAHOE HIGH SCHOOL

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Pat Harnett, Asst. Principal ☞ Chad Houck, Principal ☞ Justin Zunino, Asst. Principal

Student 4

----- is an amazing young lady that has overcome the challenges of her young life with grace and dignity. ----- and her twin sister were living with their mom until she was diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer. Both girls were very close to their mother who was trying to complete her own education in nursing and provide a good life for her family. The girls watched their only caregiver get ill and die when they were 9 years old. Their estranged father was forced to take responsibility for the girls and he immediately moved them back to the Philippines. After learning that he needed to move back to the U.S. for survivor benefits he returned with his daughters. But never really assumed the role of a parent. He left them with his mother until she got too old and then with their aunt in Lake Tahoe. When she entered high school, ----- was taking rigorous courses and preparing for college. However, her father would abandon ----- and her sister without money to stay with reluctant relatives who didn't have the means to care for them. ----- and her sister were expected to work long hours babysitting so they could pay for their own needs including food. ----- remained resilient while her sister struggled more in school. ----- stayed focused on her goals and endured the hard work and poverty. This young lady accepted the help of AVID, Upward Bound and good people in church to get through those difficult times. Now, ----- has earned admission to attend CSU, Sacramento this fall to study health science and eventually obtain the dream of Nursing.