Why a future teacher went back to school at NAU

She said, ‘Rosa, welcome to NAU’ and from then on, I knew I was a Lumberjack. I’m going to finally finish my degree!

Rosario Newton
B.S.Ed., Special and Elementary Education, 2014

Meet Rosario

Rosario Newton lives in Coolidge, Arizona, and she works at Central Arizona College. Born in Mexico and raised in Arizona, she earned her associate degree at Central Arizona College in 2001. After a decade of work experience, she went back to school to pursue her bachelor’s degree in special and elementary education in 2011 at The Extended Campuses of Northern Arizona University.

A Call to Teach after 10 Years

Rosario wanted to earn her bachelor’s degree for several years, but it was difficult in her hometown. “Where I live is so far from the main universities that I wasn’t able to continue my education at first,” Rosario says. “So when NAU opened its Signal Peak campus, I enrolled.”

Rosario chose to enroll in the special and elementary education program and found the enrollment process seamless. She decided on a Wednesday to apply and was admitted to NAU that Friday.

“I went to an NAU advisor and told her I was interested in the education program,” she says. “She pulled out a list and told me what I needed. She was very specific about each step of the process. I handed everything to her Thursday morning and I was in the program by Friday.”
Community in the Classroom

From job to job, Rosario always stepped up to teach and lead others. “I’m a natural teacher,” she says. “Whether it’s training others or teaching new policies, everything that I have always done at previous jobs has led me to be an instructor.”

After a decade hiatus from education, Rosario was nervous about going back to school. Her classmates made her feel at home on her first day. “They were very welcoming from the very beginning,” she says. “They took me in and all of them were helpful from day one.”

The Personal Touch

What Rosario loves about NAU is the personal attention to her education. “There are 17 people in my class as opposed to 400,” she says. “The teacher can speak to me one-on-one before class, after class and even by email and phone.”

She doesn’t regret staying in her community to earn her degree. “I am getting the same education that I would in Flagstaff. The quality of teachers is here and the quality of education is here.”

Preparing to Graduate

Rosario is excited about starting her student teaching internship and graduating next year. To any adult who wants to go back to school, she believes you can do it. “NAU is here so take advantage of it. NAU is a great opportunity. If you are not sure, talk to somebody. They are willing to help. You just have to ask.”

Learn More
To find out more about NAU–Extended Campuses, including its degree options, locations and affordable tuition:

Visit: nau.edu/extended
Call: (800) 426-8315
Email: extended.campuses@nau.edu
Go: Visit your local NAU campus

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This unique bachelor’s degree option lets students like you:

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• Stay local by completing your NAU credits online or at a local community college.
• Advance your career in Special and Elementary Education, Counseling, Human Relations, and other growing fields.

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• Computing & Technology
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• Health Professions
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Flexible Class Formats

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In-Person: Take class in person at one of NAU’s 30+ campuses.

Blended: A mix of in-person and online coursework.