

Distinguished Graduate

2022



Brenda Valdes

PSYCHOLOGY

“You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.”

- C.S. Lewis

Brenda Valdes was born in a humble household just across the border by Eagle Pass, Texas in a town called Allende Coahuila, Mexico. She is the daughter of a school custodian and a homemaker.

From a very young age, she dreamed about being the first one to go to college. However, her circumstances were not favorable. She had to quit school to start working and help support her family. From one day to the next, her dreams were gone.

Years later, she got married and moved to San Antonio, Texas. San Antonio offered her many opportunities and she took them. She enrolled in ESL classes in 2010, then finished her GED in 2011.

With small children at home the idea of going to college was completely out of the question. It was in 2020 that she realized that her life needed something, and that something was an education. Although she is a non-traditional student and English is not her first language, she didn’t let that stop her. Difficulties that she went through brought her resilience, which she used to keep going. Now she wants to inspire others to pursue their dreams. It is never too late!