

ABRIL AVENDANO – FROM THE SLUMS OF MEXICO CITY TO THE UPSTATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Have you ever been able to see an opportunity but had no way to reach it? Born in the slums of Mexico City, Abril Avendano immigrated to the United States as a young girl but still found her goals out of reach because of the economic challenges faced by her family of seven. She responded by becoming a certified nursing assistant and finding a full time job at an emergency room. When she was accepted as an incoming freshman to SWU, she began attending classes by day and paying for them at night. But, when to sleep? Quick naps before 12-hour night shifts became standard. Even with incredibly hard work, Abril struggled to afford school and keep up with her payments. But that changed when her professor, Michelle Eller, took notice. She advocated for Abril, working with financial aid and advancement. This led to three new scholarships!



Your generous gifts have dramatically changed my life. I still work but am taking better care of myself and devoting more time to my studies because of generous donors like you. Thank you!

Abril



Although Abril continues to work and go to school, her scholarships mean she can take fewer shifts, has more time for her studies, and can even compete as an NCAA athlete. When she does work in a local ER, she uses what she learns not only in science, but also in her ministry classes, to care for her patients and share the love of Christ with her colleagues as they stand shoulder to shoulder on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19. Abril is a true Warrior for Christ.