

Jesse Blackburn interview of Jenna Schlick

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 0:02

I'm Jessy Blackburn interviewing Jenna Schlick at SUNY Brockport on November 18, 2019. Okay, can you tell me a little bit about your family background?

Jenna Schlick 0:14

Yeah, so I've grown up with my parents always being split up. So, I've always gone back and forth visiting between the two. And I have a stepdad who's been in my life, basically, my entire life and I call him dad. And then I have stepmom who came into my life later on. And I have two younger siblings, and they're significantly younger, ones 11 and one's 8. And then I have my older sister, who's 24. So, it's definitely weird because I have kids who are still like in elementary school, doing like little kid things. And then I have a sister who's all grown like, ready to start a family. So

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 0:51

What are your parents' educational backgrounds and how to impact your view on education?

Jenna Schlick 0:56

I definitely think my parents had very unique experiences, I would say, my dad, he went to college right out of high school. But he actually went to culinary school. And he went to Johnson and Wales. And he did that. And he graduated and was going to do that with his life and then he kind of realized that's not what he wanted to do. And he ended up switching and doing something completely different. And he did nutrition. So, he sold baby formula. And like, that's what got him into what he does now. And he still has, he's always been a sales rep ever since he realized that culinary wasn't a thing for him because having a family like you can't do that kind of a job because you're always working and busy and everything. And my stepmom went to a four-year school and graduated with a degree that she never really used. She kind of just wanted to be a mom. And now she's actually going back to school, out of state. They live in North Carolina, and she's trying to become a teacher. So, for them, she's just doing a certificate program and she's doing that, so she actually wants to have a career now and my mom actually didn't go to college, she went to a community college. And she had a baby in high school. So, she wasn't able to really follow through with it because it was just a lot. And she ended up getting pregnant with me. So, there was just no way for her to go to school. And so, she ended up dropping out. And she actually went back a couple years ago. And it was funny because she went back to a two-year school at the same time as my sister. So, my sister was the reason she could never finish like college or really like, follow through with it. And then it was really cool to watch them like walk across the stage and like graduate together and it was just like, definitely really unique. And I felt like it was really empowering to see like your mom do something like that and follow like her dreams. And then my stepdad has gone to college so many different times. And he's graduated every time and has had so many degrees and he now does respiratory therapy and he's been an engineer. He's been in the army. He's just done a lot and I think that for me like watching them do that definitely made me realize that no matter what

you do, it doesn't matter and it's going to work out anyways because worked out fine for them.
So

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 3:12

Did you say like where your sister went?

Jenna Schlick 3:15

My sister went to Mohawk Valley Community College. And like I said, that's where my mom went to, which is right by where I live. And she actually she had kind of a, like, she went to a two-year school, but originally, she was going to go to a different one that wasn't at home and she changed her mind because she got really scared and I think that's something she regretted. And that also made me want to go away because she told me that she wished she had done that like that was her biggest regret. So, she, when I came to visit Brockport. She came with me. And she was like, I'm just so proud that you're doing that and like not to stay home. I think my family really wanted me to stay home because that's what they all did. They were used to that on like one side and then on my dad's side, he was very like, go away like I went away. I didn't regret at all like you need to do that. So, I definitely had a lot of people weighing in on like what they wanted me to do, but I kind of just stuck to like what I knew was right. And I'm glad I did.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 4:08

What was your high school experience like?

Jenna Schlick 4:11

So, I went to a really small school. It's called Oriskany. It's right by Utica. I'm like 15 minutes away from Utica. Which is weird, because coming here, a lot of people didn't know what Utica was, and I thought that people would, but I went to a really small school, and I had moved there from a bigger school, which I'm really happy that I didn't stay in a bigger school because I think a small school really made me like who I am and allowed me to blossom a lot more than when you're at a bigger school. I feel like you just get more overlooked. And there, everyone knew everything about you. And there were some aspects where it kind of was like, not the best because you had to stay with your friend group and if there wasn't much opportunity to meet new people, but also, you knew that everyone always had your back and everyone knows where you live and like who you are, and it's just really nice and teachers care a lot about you and want to see you succeed, and you have the same teachers over and over and you make every sports team you want. So, you get to, like, have confidence, like build your confidence. And it's easier to, like I said, like blossom in a situation like that. And I think that it makes a difference going to a smaller school too, because everyone comes home there, and it's so small. So, I feel like you don't have that, as much of a fear of losing all of your friends when everyone says like you go to college, and you don't talk to your friends anymore, I feel like it's not necessarily like that because it's just so small. And everyone's parents also like, knew each other from high school, they all in high school together, they all came back. So, it's definitely interesting. But it was nice that I came later because I also saw things from a different perspective. And like I kind of had to make that new experience my own because my parents didn't go there like all my friends and all my friends knew each other since they were babies. So

that was hard. But it was kind of nice to like, make it my own and like still have the same experiences.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 6:00

So, what made you decide to go to college? And then why did you pick Brockport?

Jenna Schlick 6:04

I definitely I, I went through a lot of changes on what honestly even going to college to begin with. Because I, growing up, I've always wanted to do different things my whole entire life. But as I got older, I really liked hair and makeup and everything. So, I honestly considered just moving to New York City and going to a beauty school there and trying to make a life out of that. And I like, I was really dead set on doing that. And I researched it a lot. And I was like, I'm not going to go to college, I want to do this blah, blah, blah. And the more as I got older, like into my senior year, I realized that that wasn't for me. I wanted to be like everybody else. I wanted to go to college, and I felt like me going away too I wanted to do that because I knew everyone else was doing that that I was close with. And I didn't want to feel like I was missing out on something and I feel like a college experience is something you could never like, go back and get whereas if I, say I wanted to do hair, you can always find a hair school when you're an adult and go to it, but you can never like, go back to when you're 18 years old and going to school and doing all of that. So that's definitely why I wanted to go. But I didn't change or decide on Brockport or even decide on like what I wanted to do until my senior year. I chose to do this program where I went and did a lot of internships. And originally, I wanted to go to SUNY Del-High for veterinary, to be a veterinary technician. And they have like the best program there and that's what I was dead set on doing. I kind of applied to Brockport because I saw that they had a lot of majors and I liked the thought of the school. So, I figured I would apply as almost like a backup because they would have something for me to do there. And I ended up doing my internships. I had really bad experiences. I realized that's not what I wanted to do. So, and I visited the school too, Del-High and it was just not for me. It was not the environment I wanted or the location or anything. So, I kind of had to like last minute, go back and really think about what I wanted to do. And I went back and looked at Brockport again online. And I realized like, I loved it a lot. So, I like was okay I need to go visit and then as soon as I visited, I knew that this is where I wanted to go. And like, I feel like when you are looking at colleges, you just know when you step on the campus, like if it's for you, or if it's not, and this definitely was, and I think the only thing I would regret about like looking at colleges is I didn't really look at a lot. And I kind of wish I looked at more but also, I tried to like to expand my horizons and like look at other schools and even the ones that I went to I was so set on one that I feel like even if you like another one, you're not going to change your mind because you just you're set on it so yeah Brockport. I'm happy I went here but it was definitely a rough journey to pick it, but it worked out.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 8:53

What was your attitude like before coming to college and did you feel prepared when you got here?

Jenna Schlick 8:57

I felt, I was totally fine. Going to school, I was super ready. I was super excited until probably we went, I went to orientation. And I went to orientation and it really freaked me out because everyone was acting like it was going to be a really big adjustment and like, it was really scary and they struggled so much and everything and so that definitely made my attitude change because I was so, now I was scared because I was like, okay, all these people are saying, It's so bad and blah, blah, blah. So, I got nervous and then I was nervous, nervous, nervous. And then when I got here, it was like, as soon as I got in, I moved in. I was fine. Like, I immediately my attitude was like, no, this is exactly where I want to be. I was really, really happy and I definitely never had a moment where I was regretting anything or like nervous or having a hard time adjusting. I felt like it was very easy to transition into the school and everything and I think that like having a good roommate, I have a really good roommate, so she made it a lot easier for me.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 9:55

Do you think your high school prepared you at all, or no?

Jenna Schlick 9:58

I don't think, I don't think like, they didn't compare or like compare me, prepare me for college. But I feel like they were very. They kind of made it, I feel like everyone's high school makes it really dramatic about going and they say that it's gonna be really hard for you. I definitely don't think it was like that. So that's good. But they tried their best to get me ready. They had people come that are already in college and talk but nobody came from Brockport, so I felt like it wasn't preparing me because they were all from different schools that I just couldn't really relate to.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 10:43

When you first arrived here, how is it different from your high school?

Jenna Schlick 10:48

I feel like I would say Brockport reminded me of high school in comparison to other colleges because it was small, but obviously it's a lot bigger. I don't think I mentioned this earlier, but I went to a like school, that was, I only had 53 kids in my grade. So, I went to a really tiny school. And like here, it was kind of a small feel, but

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 11:06

(Inaudible) Vet tech before. And then when you picked Brockport, you changed your mind. So, what did you think your major was going to be going in?

Jenna Schlick 11:16

When I went in, I decided to do business administration, because that was definitely because of my dad. Because as I mentioned before, he is a sales rep now, and he ended up going to grad school. I'm not really sure what his degree was when he went to grad school, but he told me and to go for business because you could do anything with it, and I could do what he's doing. And obviously, I think when you look up to somebody that it's like, you want to be like them,

and I like the lifestyle that he's provided for me. So, I knew that doing something that he recommended would be best because he knows. So, I decided to do business administration. And I just like I knew everything that I would want to do I could do with that and I really, I want to own my own business. But first, you know, you have to have a job that makes like pretty good money. And I feel like a lot of jobs that you use that degree for you do make good money. And also, I knew I would definitely be able to learn things about how to manage a business, and how to do all of that. And I want to do, like, I want to do a minor in marketing, I think after being here, because I feel like that'd be something that I'm really interested in. And it would definitely help because if you do own your own business, you have to know how to market it and make people like it. And that's kind of just like, if I had my own background, I wouldn't need to hire somebody to do that for me, because I would know how to do it. So that's my major.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 12:34

What do you plan to do with your degree? Do you know yet or no?

Jenna Schlick 12:37

I don't really know. I, I think that I just, I didn't know what I could do. Like I like I said, I knew I could do a lot. But I didn't realize, like I really like animals, and that's why I wanted to be a vet tech. But that wasn't necessarily for me. But then I realized that with my degree, I could run a veterinary clinic and like make it my own and make it an experience that I like for other people and other people's animals and everything and I didn't realize I could do that with my degree. And that's definitely something I would like to look into doing. But my like dream is to own like a non for profit, like animal rescue shelter, where like I adopt dogs out and stuff because that's just something I'm passionate about. But you don't make a lot of money doing that. And like I have to be able to provide for like the lifestyle I want. So, I think I need a job to like, get me there first. And I don't really know what I want that to be. And that's kind of like what I'm hoping to find over like the next four years.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 13:31

How do you think that your time management changed from high school to college?

Jenna Schlick 13:36

My time management definitely changed a lot because in high school, I definitely waited until the very last minute to do every single thing and I think that I still kind of do that in college, but it's different because like, I only do it for certain things that I know I can and like I've learned my boundaries of like certain things you can't wait till the last minute to do because you're just gonna hate your life. So, like don't do that. That has changed a lot for me. And I think I, I definitely studied more and like, in high school, I didn't study at all I just felt like I didn't need to, and I didn't care enough to. And now I definitely study a lot for things cause I know their importance, and I like I want to succeed and do well. And I know I also know like that I can. So, I don't want to like set my bar like low and just like slack because it's easier to do that for me. And I know it's like bad and I shouldn't so I definitely I'm managing my time better, but I will say that in college like I feel like I don't have as much work because it's the same for me every

single week. So, every single class, same thing every week. It's just kind of on a set schedule. So, I have everything already planned out. Like when I'm going to do what, and I know what like works best for me.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 14:47

What did you find, like, hardest about your transition?

Jenna

I would say honestly, this is gonna sound silly, but I feel like the hardest thing for me was leaving my dog at home because I just got here a year ago. And I think that was the hardest thing for me was just leaving because I feel like this is something that nobody talks about. But when you are living in a house with a pet your whole entire life and you see them every single day, and then you leave and you're at a school and you're just in like a small room, and I just feel like I thought that also like college wasn't gonna feel homey and like, I definitely have made my room feel more homey, but like to not have your pet they're like all the time when you come home. Like that was really the only hard transition. And I feel like lucky that I can say that's the hardest thing for me because, it honestly wasn't hard at all. I feel like maybe the other thing would be like eating like my eating schedule. Like it's very different to eat here because you can't just constantly live off of things in the microwave. Like you have to make time to physically leave the building you live in, and like go get food and that's kind of the hardest thing for me too because I just want to like cook on my own and like, have a kitchen right there like you do in your own house. But you can't have that, so you have to like to make the effort and you have to make the effort to stay like healthy and like make good food choices. Which I'm not the best at, but I try to, so yeah, I feel like, that was definitely another like hard transition.

Jessy

What have you been doing for fun in or outside of school?

Jenna Schlick 16:13

In school, I feel like for fun, like, definitely like, just on the weekends like doing things with your friends or like having like movie nights or just like going to dinner with your friends like that's like fun and just being able to sit there and talk and like just hear about like, what each other's like days are like or whatever. It's just kind of nice because it gives you like, the family at home feel. And then I like in high school, I played sports and stuff. So, I don't really do that here. I kind of missed that. But also, I don't miss it enough to like to dedicate that much time like I respect people that do but I just personally couldn't. But I liked to draw in high school. So, I like when I moved in here like a few weeks later, I went and got like paper and pencils and like drew so that gave me something to do and I like to do my makeup. So, like sometimes I'll do my makeup when I'm feeling like doing it. So that's like fun for me. Um, but yeah, I think just spending time with people and like, just have like making good memories. Like, that's like the best part.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 17:09

Do you think it was easier for you to make friends in high school or in college?

Jenna Schlick 17:14

I think that that's like a hard question. Because in high school, I would say, it was easier to have friends in high school, because you spent every single day with them. And it's the same people that you see in all of your classes. So, you know, you just kind of like, it's natural to make your friends and I remember, in high school, like my friends, like our, like, favorite thing was going to lunch every day and like seeing each other, and we all had different paths our senior year. So, like, that was the one thing that like we all did together. So, like, I feel like it was just easier to do the whole friend thing, high school just because you had that routine and like you, and I went to a small school, so we were all kind of forced to stay with each other. Whereas in college, I feel like it's definitely hard because you really, really have to go out of your way to make friends. Especially like, personally, I feel like being at Brockport, I've noticed that it's almost a little bit harder. I feel like not a lot of people are very open to like meeting new people, which you would think wouldn't be like that, but it really kind of is. So that's like harder. And also like me and my roommate get along so well. So like we have each other and like, it's just so much easier to have good roommate that you like then to go out and be like, arranging everyone's schedules to match yours to be able to go do things so you definitely have to try a lot harder in college but then like, it's you can tell the difference in the friends you make here then like my friends at home, like it's just I don't know, I feel like here it's different because you only have each other like you don't have your family to go home to every night and be like, oh like so and so's bothering me or whatever. Like you only have your friends to lean on here so like, I feel like friends from home are like family too. But here it's so much different. Like you really are like family because you're all each other really has when you're like so far away from home. But I definitely think that also in college you don't need like a giant group of friends you just need like a few good friends. That are always going to be there because you don't need 1000 friends, it doesn't matter if you're popular in college because no one cares. Like, no one's sitting there keeping tabs on you. So.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 19:14

Who has had the biggest influence on your college experience so far?

Jenna Schlick 19:21

I don't know. I feel like I would, I would honestly say in college, my roommate because they like your roommate makes your experience for sure. And like, thank God, I had a good one because she's like, made it really good. But I've heard a lot of people that haven't had a good one. And I feel like it's tarnishing their experience a lot. And I feel bad because it's like, I can't necessarily relate to that. But I can't imagine feeling like that at all. But I think also like, at home, like all of my family's been like a really important part because they all like really support me and they make like, they're all really proud of me because especially on my mom's side, I'm the only one to do this. So, like they don't even know like what it's like and they can't like they always say like I'm just so proud like that you went and did that blah blah blah, so it's just really encouraging that like, I have people behind me to support me. And then like here, in my own room I have somebody that's like, always there for me and like can do things with me and like they're there for you. And it's like, just super nice to not have to not have somebody that you

don't get along with like, in your room living with you every day like that would just not be good.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 20:23

Do you have a mentor that has, like, guided you? It could be like before college too.

Jenna Schlick 20:30

I don't know, I feel like I would say like my dad a lot. Like my mom has always been my mom's more of like the supportive type like she would support anything I do. Whereas like my dad, he's really hard on me. So, like, he's the type to be like, what are you doing? Like, why are you doing this so and like he kind of makes me give a reason for everything. And I think that's good because it makes me not do things just because like for no reason. And he's definitely like I said he's created a lifestyle that I know I want. So, like it makes me want to work harder and like do what he's done and like, go as far as he has. So, like, I look up to him and like I trust his advice over really everyone else's because I'm like, Okay, I know you're doing it right. And that's like exactly what I want. And like I said, he kind of has a job that is something like I could do. So, it's just nice to see like how his life plays out and things that he regrets too, like he's very open talking about his experiences in life in general. So, he's definitely like taught me a lot.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 21:29

What advice would you give to somebody going into college?

Jenna Schlick 21:34

Okay, number one, I would say, it's not as scary as everyone makes it seem. I feel like everyone's experience is different. So I understand why everyone wants to tell you that it's going to be scary, but I think that that's like, my biggest thing that my biggest pet peeve about college or going into it was that everyone tries to scare you so bad and I think they're just trying to like, protect you so that you're more prepared, I guess for it to be like, really bad, but I don't think that that's the necessarily everyone's case. So, I don't think that everyone should only talk about the bad and like how it's such a hard transition. So, I definitely think that like, my advice would be don't be too scared. Like, it's going to be different. It's going to be like hard. But I think the worst part is leading up to it. Like once you're there, you're going to be fine. Like if you love your college before you're in there, like you imagine how much you're gonna love it once you're already there and going, and definitely to just like, not worry about what other people are doing. Like I feel like it was hard for me going into college because all my friends were going to like a school together. So that was in my head. I was like, that's gonna suck. But once you're there, it doesn't matter. You're creating like your own memories, and you're going to have such a good time. And I think definitely my other advice would be just like to be really open minded going into school and like, the people you're friends with in high school, like, you don't have to have friends that are just like them. And I feel like in college my friends aren't necessarily like, I don't have a lot of people that are around me that I say, oh, you remind me of so and so or so and so like, everyone's very unique and that's totally fine. I think it's really nice. And my other advice would be don't like, don't burn bridges to even like if things are hard with your friends from around before you go, like, just try to, like have that good experience right before you

leave. Because like, it's always good to have those friends from home to like to go back and visit and like, look forward to visiting them because that's the only thing that sad about college is, we're going to go home for a break and like, you're not going to be with those people that you're with every single day anymore. And it's like, you're definitely going to be sad and lonely if you burn all your bridges. So, you're going to want to have friends to like, go back to but yeah, definitely just don't be scared. And like be excited because it's such a fun like, chapter in your life.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 23:36

Like how you said about having like different friends than from home. Do you think that like since you went to such a small school?

Jenna Schlick 23:44

Yeah

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 23:44

You had like that culture shock when you got here?

Jenna Schlick 23:47

I think that it was like yeah, culture shock in every, in all the right ways. Like it was definitely like I was so happy that I didn't have to choose from 10 people to be friends with anymore and I didn't have, if I don't like somebody, I don't like them. And now I don't have to justify it to anybody, you just move on and meet somebody else. But it's definitely like, it's different. Because it's like you go, I walk around and I don't see the same people all the time that I'm used to, but at the same time, I didn't want that at all. And I also, but I'm grateful that Brockport's not too big. Like to me it's, it's kind of like, smaller compared to my, my friends like other colleges. I like look at their campuses and everything. I just feel like it was too big for me. And like when I visited other schools, I visited Cortland and I felt like it was really big, and I can't imagine going to Binghamton or Buffalo cause that's huge. But I think Brockport was like my perfect like stepping stone into like, the real world because it was like a comfortable change.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 24:47

Okay, is there anything else about college that you would like to share?

Jenna Schlick 24:54

I would say that like classes, and we talked about how like the classes in college are definitely manageable. Everyone makes it seem like they're going to be really hard. And I'm going to haven't hit finals yet because I'm only a freshman but midterms I feel like everyone made a really big deal. But I think it is just what you make it and if you can, like, just handle yourself and take it day by day and just not stress yourself out, like, just know that you're in control of this every situation, then you'll be fine and it's not as bad as everyone makes it seem.

Blackburn, Jessy R (jblac7) 25:23

Okay, well, that's all I have. Okay, so thank you.

Jenna Schlick 25:26

Thank you.

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