

Talia Brown Testimonial Script

Absolutely. I came to Graceland as a part-time employee in November of 2000. I began taking classes, and I earned my undergraduate degree in 2006 and finished my master's degree in 2019.

I work as the executive director for Enrollment Management and in student financial services. We help students and families create a financial (plan) to finance their Graceland education.

Oh, well, it is a tough job to help students finance their education with a variety of sources. So, we work with federal and state and institutional funds to create the best plan we can for our students.

I'm married to Kevin Brown who is the admissions director here at Graceland University. He and I both have been here about 20 years. We've opened our home to students many times. We have four children, one of which is a current Graceland student.

Um, our students have been blessed with meeting students from all over the world, and they've learned about many cultures.

So, I grew up in Eagleville, Missouri, which is fifteen minutes south of Lamoni, so I call Graceland 'the middle of everywhere.' So, you're within the middle of the United States with access to everywhere. Not only just access from travel, but access to people.

The Graceland alumni network is very wide spread. We have faculty, staff and alumni who help students every day, in and out, and go above and beyond to assist them in making sure they are successful.

Graceland has a variety of students that come from all kinds of backgrounds. Some of them have financial support of their families, and some are lacking and need guidance, which is where our department comes in to assist them and create a financial plan. We look for

resources from all kinds of different sources to be able to help them create a plan.

My daughter is currently a senior here at Graceland University. She has pursued nursing and business and psychology courses. That's part of the liberal arts education, that she can pursue anything that interests her at the moment. And, as we all know, college students change their minds a lot. So, it's great having her here on campus. She can visit my office and visit me, and she can come home when she wants. But often that's not very often because she's engaged on the campus.

We absolutely have students who come into our office at the beginning of each semester or even towards the end of the semester to plan for their next year who are short just a small amount of funds to be able to fund their Graceland education moving forward. So, we work with them to identify our generous alumni donors to help students finalize that last little bit that makes their Graceland education possible.

I certainly feel like working with students is something we're honored to get to do every single day. There are a lot of job opportunities, but the feeling you get watching a student walk across the stage is one that's worth every minute that we spend here.

Hi. I'm Talia Brown, a Graceland graduate from 2016 with my master's in 2019. I'm grateful for Graceland. Please join us on Tuesday for our Day of Giving. I'm grateful for Graceland. Are you?"