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Dear KFA Multimedia Contest Committee please consider my submission for the student category. I am currently completing my third year of a degree in fine arts. Post-secondary has changed my life immensely. Here is the story of my transformation.

Education has been a struggle for me ever since learning how to read. When it came to academics I was always at the bottom of the class. My strengths and interests were not valued in a school setting. It was very frustrating as a child, feeling like I was not as smart as my classmates. I felt this way, well into my teenage years and ended up dropping out of school in grade nine. I may not have been a good student but I certainly was not lazy. At fourteen I was working six days a week and putting money in the bank. I did go back to school and finish grade ten, but at an alternative school. The program was called "Work and Learn," and it appealed to me because it was a program for teens with jobs. From there I continued learning, but without the confines of a classroom. I worked just enough to travel for long periods of time and eventually worked overseas. Travel proved to be a huge learning opportunity. I learned about different cultures and a lot more about myself. Eventually I felt the confidence to go back to school. In my youth I had dreams of becoming a high school teacher, but I assumed that achieving it would be impossible. With the help of career counselors and advisors at KPU I learned that after some up-grading, a four year degree, and the personal development program, becoming a teacher was totally possible. With much encouragement from my family, I decided to pursue a degree in fine arts. I have always loved art and making things with my hands. I have especially enjoyed ceramics, and have been steadily making pottery since I was a teen. When I first went back to school, I felt self-conscious and I didn't believe that I would ever finish my degree. I eventually gained more skills through my studies and started to feel more like I belonged. For the first time in my life I believed that I was smart enough and that I was capable. Teachers liked me and inspired me to take risks and to work even harder. I became more and more involved in the campus life. I now am the treasure for the Kwantlen Art Collective and I am the founder and organizer of KPU's coed drop in soccer which has run yearlong since 2014. My transformative moment was when I was awarded the eagle spirit awards in 2015. I proudly accepted my award in front of my mother and grandparents, something I had never imagined myself doing. For someone, who earlier in life, had felt like an academic failure, receiving that award helped me see the growth that I had made. It showed me that I was capable of taking my education as far as I wanted it to go. In my ceramic piece, "metamorphosis" I am attempting to show transformation with a series of organic-like sculptures. Each sculpture represents the different stages in my life and the transformation that takes shape. Starting out very fragile, growing stronger as it evolves, finally into a fully developed version of itself. Each stage necessary and more valuable and informative as the piece evolves.