

Make Your Mark Audio Project  
Date of Interview: April 26, 2021  
Interviewer: Kira Wright  
Interviewee: Aubree Kitchen

Kira Wright: Alright, hi. Can you introduce yourself for me?

Aubree Kitchen: Hello! My name is Aubree Kitchen. A-U-B-R-E-E K-I-T-C-H-E-N.

KW: Alright, Aubree. So, you are graduating in just a few weeks [laughter]. So, what is the biggest thing that you've learned during your time at Texas State?

AK: Um, the biggest thing that I have learned is to believe in myself. I've gone through a lot of difficult things in the past few years that I've been on this journey towards my degree, and it's been pretty hard to stay focused and to do well in school. But I have done well, so I'm pretty proud of that.

KW: Yeah, you should be! That's a big deal.

AK: Yeah!

KW: So, if you could go back to the very first time coming to Texas State and give yourself some advice, what would your advice be?

AK: [laughter] Books before boys! Books before boys for sure. I've done well in school, but I think I could have done better had my focus not been so, you know, distracted. [laughter]

KW: That's a good motto. I like that motto. Okay, so like I said, you only have a few weeks left, is there anything on, like, your bucket list before you walk across the stage?

AK: Oh gosh. Before I walk across the stage? No, I don't think so. I really am ready to jump in that river afterwards though.

KW: So, like, slightly after you walk across the stage.

AK: Yes. I am, I'm ready to jump in that river.

KW: What are you most looking forward to in your post-grad life?

AK: I'm most looking forward to having my own classroom. I am a teacher and I can't wait to have my own environment where I'm in control and can really, you know, teach my students how I want to teach them.

KW: Yeah, it's like a tables turned kind of thing.

AK: Yes! Yes.

KW: Student becomes the teacher. I like that.

AK: Exactly.

KW: And what is perhaps the scariest thing about post-grad life?

AK: The scariest thing is just right now landing a job. I'm a single mom. I don't have a lot of money, so I'm just really anxious actually officially getting a job.

KW: That's understandable. I'm sure you'll be fine.

AK: [laughter]

KW: Alright, and then our final question is how do you think your time at Texas State has changed your life?

AK: I mean, I'm so grateful to be a Bobcat. I'm so grateful that this is my school. The teachers that I've had are incredible. They've helped inspire me to not only believe in myself, but to instill that in my future students that they can do all the hard things, not only in school but in their lives. And so if I can impress that upon my own students someday I'll call that a success – if they believe in themselves. Also, another group of people that I would really like to give a shout out to are the Veterans Alliance here at Texas State. Without those crazy guys I don't know if I would've stayed as sane as I have. You know, this group has really started to expand I think, and I hope a lot more veterans can know that there's a group here to help take care of each other.

KW: Awesome. Well, thank you for chatting with me.

AK: Thank you!