

I grew up in Missouri and was homeschooled from kindergarten through high school.

My parents identified as fundamentalist evangelical Christians. Due to my parents' religious beliefs, I grew up being told that it was evil for women to have a career. I graduated high school without learning any math past basic algebra, and I was refused education in higher level science classes, like chemistry. My parents also refused to aid in teaching me anything I did not "naturally pick up," because they were not invested in my receiving a basic education.

In addition to my parents' beliefs that girls do not need a basic education, they imposed a duty of evangelism on me that made education in subjects I was allowed to learn very difficult. This started at age 12. I was placed in political training organizations and camps. I began working full time in religious, conservative politics at 15 years old unpaid. Since I wanted a career so badly and this seemed to be the only godly route as a girl, I did what they told me.

Due to this approach, my ACT score in math was extremely low - in the 36th percentile - while I scored in the 97th percentile in reading and 94th in English. The lack of education in math hurt my chances at scholarships and limited my education options.

As a result, I didn't go to college and was married to another homeschool graduate at 18 that both sets of parents approved of.

Without a college degree, I became an entrepreneur. While I have gained some success, It has come with a lot more struggle and hardship than a traditional path. I never became the attorney I wanted to become.

A lot of time has been spent privately re-educating myself. I believe economic opportunity comes from a certain level of education equality. One that many homeschool students, especially girls, do not receive.

Signed,
MS