



Stressful situations and financial instability in a family create insecurity in a child. That was the case for Alanis as she was growing up. Complicating that even more were frequent moving and being in three different schools during junior and high school years. For Alanis this showed up in the fatigue and tiredness that made attending school impossible. So during her sophomore year she dropped out. Drifting into unhealthy relationship didn't help either. Alanis says, "I stayed out late and acted like the rebellious teenager that I was, though I never got into serious trouble."

By her senior year things started to get better. For Alanis landing in Clinton Central High School brought a sense of stability and peace of mind. Self-examination was telling her that she needed to do well in school to have a better life. She knew she had to overcome and modify many of her own character traits such as being too trusting and stressing out about everything. She started to put things in place to enroll in Ivy Tech and started in the ASAP program last summer. In this accelerated program students can earn an associate degree in a year. Alanis was successful, received her degree last week and is enrolled at IU Kokomo for the fall

Alanis continues to be very goal oriented. She says her personal short term goals are: "To buy a car, save money, find a new apartment close to school, to graduate with honors and to obtain financial stability." Her career goals include finishing her degree in community health, obtaining a hand-on experience, working at a community center and keeping a part-time job through-out college. A long-term goal is to start a non-profit homeless shelter.

An honest reflection comes from one of her references who had interviewed Alanis for the ASAP program. He said, "After the interview, while I had sympathy for Alanis, I believed that because of her upbringing and environment she was too far removed from academia to be able to acclimate to the fast paced nature of the ASAP program. I marked decline on her application although other person passed her." He goes on to say he will always remember that decision with regret and adds, "Alanis has become the quintessential ASAP success story. I do not know how Alanis found value in education, in healthy lifestyles, and respect for others . . .as none of those seemed to exist in the environment surrounding her. It must be in her nature – to be kind, to be courteous, driven and exemplary. Alanis has done this on her own.