

Witness Information

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Written Testimony

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The Impact of GEO Next Generation High School on My Family and Why School Choice Matters

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Good morning. My name is Moranda Jackson, and both of my daughters attended GEO Next Generation High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Today, I have my two beautiful daughters with me, along with the founder of GEO Academies, Mr. Kevin Teasley. I want to share my experience with GEO Prep Mid-City and GEO Next Generation High School and how it impacted not only my children's lives, but mine as well.

When I moved to Baton Rouge, one of my biggest goals was making sure all of my children could attend the same school because we were new to the area and needed stability. My children started at GEO Prep Mid-City in 2017. At that time, I had one child in 6th grade, one in 7th grade, and my son was in 8th grade.

As my children progressed through school, I began to see them truly excel academically. My daughter, Quintasia, became one of the leading scorers on testing by the 8th grade. She worked hard and continued to thrive.

When we were told that GEO was launching its very first high school, GEO Next Generation High School, starting with only the 9th grade and adding one grade level each year, I will admit that it was a little scary. Everything was so new, and we did not really know what to expect.

However, after graduating from 8th grade, my daughter took the placement test for Baton Rouge Community College through the GEO program and scored high enough to begin taking college courses before she even stepped into a high school classroom.

Over time, I watched both of my daughters grow to love not only high school, but also the college experience they were receiving at such a young age. Was everything always easy? No. There were challenges along the way, but every challenge was met with support. The school made sure the right people were in place to help students succeed, and that support made all the difference.

Today, both of my daughters graduated as valedictorians from high school while also earning their Associate degrees. One graduated with 83 college credit hours, and the other graduated with 79 college credit hours. Both received valedictorian scholarships to Xavier University of Louisiana.

One of my daughters graduated at just 20 years old with her Bachelor's degree and now teaches Math and Science. My other daughter is 19 years old and will graduate this December with her Bachelor's degree as well.

Do I believe they would have accomplished all of this if I had not brought them to GEO? Honestly, no, I do not.

I also watched two of my sons attend college through sports scholarships. While I am extremely proud of them, I learned that sports scholarships can sometimes feel uncertain because injuries can happen, and when they do, students can feel like their future is suddenly at risk.

What I appreciated about GEO was that it gave my daughters another pathway one built on academics, leadership, discipline, and opportunity.

After watching my children accomplish so much, I decided to go back to school myself. I had certifications, but I did not yet have a degree. The encouragement and environment around me inspired me to continue my education.

I completed my degree in July of 2025, and I will officially walk across the stage on Tuesday the 19th.

This experience showed me that education does not just change one student's life — it can change an entire family's future.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my story and perspective today.