

# Reaching the perfect balance

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The number of teenagers who have some sort of job while in school has dropped from nearly 40 percent in 1990 to just 20 percent today. Bryana Johnson, a Bowie senior, is one of the few students in that small group.

Johnson keeps her grades up, has college in the near future, works two jobs and carves out time for friends and family. She works very hard to pay for college applications/tuition as well as to have some extra spending money. Balancing her life is difficult but working hard is important to her; she believes that working gives her an advantage.

“Working gives you a new sense of independence and it puts me ahead because a lot of people find their first jobs in college and they won’t know how to save or budget or anything like that and I’ve already started doing that for already two or three years now,” Johnson said.

For Johnson, having money gives her a sense of responsibility, her mom, Annalisa Gonzalez, explains that it enhances her self-reliance.

“Working makes her feel empowered and independent. I believe she has a sense of pride and comfort knowing that she doesn’t have to come to us for all her wants, her job enables her to get all those “extras” on her own,” Gonzales said.

Senior Taylor Beltz, Johnson’s friend, has a lot of respect for Johnson and her decision to work.

“Working builds character. It helps a high schooler learn what it’s going to be like when we get into the



**Behind the Counter:** Senior Bryana Johnson pours ice cream into a bowl at D’Lites Austin. That job is one of the two jobs she manages to balance into her busy schedule. *Photo by Violet Glenewinkel*

real world and how to balance things so we get everything done that we need to,” Beltz said.

Teacher Vicki Vohl recognizes Johnson as a hard worker and believes she has a head start in the career world.

“Having to work is tough but it will teach her invaluable skills as an adult that her non-working peers won’t have. I think Bryana will do well in college because of her good work ethic,” Vohl said.

Johnson explains that working has never been easy, there have been challenges.

“The hardest problem with working is probably getting there, if I had to be honest most of the time I dread going to work but it’s not bad once I am there, it’s hard to just stay motivated and continue to want to work,” Johnson said.

Over the years with all

of Johnson’s responsibilities contributing to her hectic schedule she has figured out how to balance her life.

“I have been managing my life and keeping up with a schedule for so long that I couldn’t tell you if it has put a strain on my life, I have been doing it for two years so I got used to it, it’s just the normal, I am sure if I got a new job I would see more strain,” Johnson said.

Having a job can be hard for some people, Johnson advises to keep in mind, that education and your own happiness are always a priority when deciding whether or not to work.

“Unless your job is 100 percent need base obviously you have to make time for it and have to manage but if you can’t and there’s no way around, school always comes first, education is always more important and your job should never take the spot of your own

happiness and your own well-being and your own education,” Johnson said.

Collage is an important step in continuing an education, Gonzales clarifies its importance.

“College not only enhances you intellectually and prepares you for success, it teaches independence, self-discipline and keeps you striving for the next chapter in life,” Gonzalez said.

Continuing their education is very crucial to her friends, who also want to go to college, friend and fellow senior, Amy Lopez explains.

“I think college is necessary because you have to get a good education in order for you to get a good paying job in the future,” Lopez said.

Johnson can only see her future including college which makes her work hard in every part of her

life.

“College is very important to me because in this day and age everybody is super overqualified and it’s a different thing compared to about 50 years ago when no one went to college but now college is what you need in order to get ahead in life and to gain exposure and experience and jobs and opportunities,” Johnson said.

Bryana wants to go to a major university in Texas and pursue a big career.

“I want to go to A&M and be a marketing manager of a big corporation, preferable fashion, but a job is a job,” Johnson said.

Lopez says that even though Johnson works very hard and is always busy Johnson keeps her social life in balance and makes time for her friends.

“I don’t notice her more tired or different than any of my other friends because

some work as well and she knows how to use her free time wisely,” Lopez said

Beltz also agrees that Johnson never lets work interfere with anything else.

“The amount of time she works doesn’t affect her as a person. It sometimes affects how much time we spend with her but we try to visit her at work as much as we can so it doesn’t affect us too much” Beltz said.

Johnson tries to not let the stress of her demanding activities affect her.

“I don’t notice anything with Bryana compared to our other friends. She is always up beat and never lets anything bother her,” Beltz said.

Students who work are sometimes considered inspirations because they spend their time not always leisuring but working, although this could be true Johnson, believes she is also just an average teenager.

“I don’t think I am an inspiration, I think that it all depends on what you can handle and I am just a calm easy going person and school, in a way, school just comes easy to me, it has never been something I have really had to try hard on and I think that has enabled me to work two jobs,” Johnson said.

Bryana Johnson works very hard in every aspect of her life, enhancing her quality as a person, Gonzalez and many others notice.

“I do see a difference. Bryana doesn’t take things for granted. She isn’t lazy and doesn’t define her happiness by personal possessions. I find Bryana to be grounded and appreciative and I attribute that to her work and school successes,” Gonzales said.★

## Austin leader sets an example for his daughter, her friends *Carly Ott takes dad’s high profile position in stride as a hard working stu-*

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As interesting as high school already is, having a dad who happens to play a big part in the community of Austin can contribute to these prime four years in an influential way.

Junior Carly Ott tends to stand out when it comes to being a high school student at Bowie because

in addition to being a well-rounded student; she plays basketball, volleyball and track, and her dad is the Austin City Manager.

Marc Ott, Carly’s dad, is very well known and has been successful in his work since he was elected as city manager in 2008. The City Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of an organization of approximately 12,000 and a budget of \$1.4 billion. City

operations range from animal services, to zoning, to the electric and water utilities. Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is also a part of City of Austin operations.

“He’s extremely hard working and always feels like he could be better,” Carly said.

Not only does he play an important role in the community, but he makes a significant impact in Car-

ly’s life, acting as a role model and is an active supporter to her academics and athletics.

“He usually comes to all my tournaments on the weekends because he doesn’t work, or sometimes he’ll leave his council meeting early so he can come to my game,” Carly said.

Despite his busy work schedule and important obligations, Marc always

her father had at her age, makes her dad’s expectations for her future high and filled with hope.

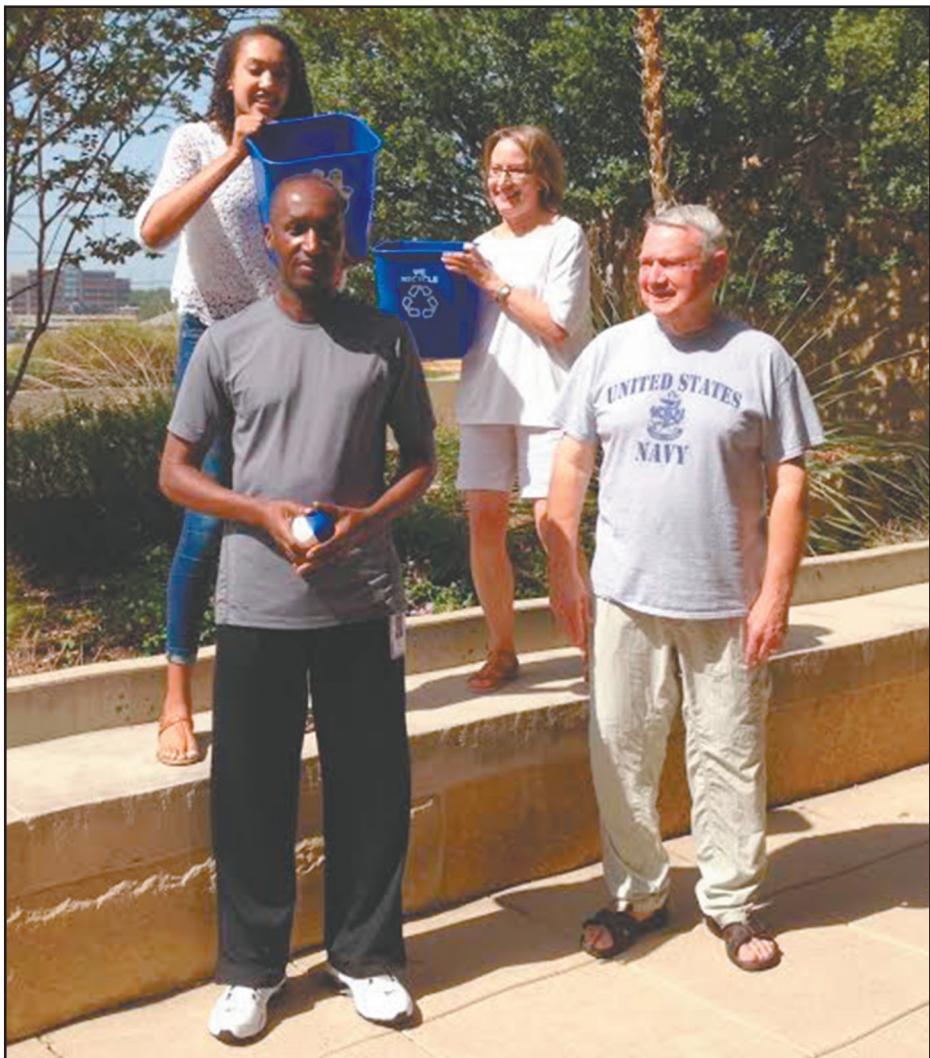
“I’m trying to demonstrate to my kids that anything is possible no matter what obstacles they may face,” Marc said.

As high school is already pressing and stressful, being held to extremely high standards or being pampered can hold you back from reaching the lev-

things that her dad does,” AP English teacher Candida Garrison said.

Being treated like a normal kid is important to Carly because that’s what she is. She doesn’t think her dad’s position in the community should determine her worth over other students, it should depend on how hard she works should.

“In everything Carly does, she puts her best foot



**Just Part of the Job:** Carly Ott (top left) gets ready to pour ice water on her nervous father, Marc Ott (bottom left) for the ALS ice bucket challenge. They are accompanied by past Mayor of Austin, Lee Leffingwell (bottom right) with his wife, Julie Leffingwell (top right) on August 21, 2014. *Photo courtesy of Carly Ott*

“I’m trying to demonstrate to my kids that anything is possible no matter what obstacles they may face. -Marc Ott”

makes time to cheer on his daughter competing on the court, successfully juggling the tasks in his workplace with his duty as a family man.

“Seeing Carly’s dad come out to her games warms my heart because it shows that he’s just a regular dad and doesn’t act Hollywood, or too important to do regular dad-like things,” Sabrina Bianco said.

Watching her father work so hard at everything he does has really motivated Carly to put her best foot forward in everything she does.

“Considering what he came from, it makes me want to become just as successful if not more successful in my later life,” Carly said.

Carly is growing up with more resources than

el of knowledge and learning you want.

“Some teachers tend to hold me to higher standards when they find out who my dad is, expecting me to be perfect and never get in trouble, Carly said. “But there are other teachers who are super nice to me because they know who my dad is, so they grade easily and are especially nice to me, which benefits me in no way.”

Being as high up as Marc is in the community, comes with advantages that some teachers could find intimidating when they end up having his daughter as a student in their class, or find it an interesting conversation topic.

“I was excited to know Carly. I am very proactive politically so I like knowing and hearing about

forward and I admire that,” Bianco said.

Support systems are a substantial part in growing and learning, whether it be a teacher or family member. Having someone to help them push for the very best and be there in times of failure can help one reach their maximum potential.

“I give credit to my parents for their support, especially my mother, because she always believed in me and knew I was destined for something,” Marc said.

Because of the parental encouragement Marc received that pushed him to go forward, he continues to make his kids understand that education should be a number one priority.

“I plan on making my family proud and I can’t wait to see where I go,” Carly said.★