

## Finding a Career that Makes a Difference

James LeQuire was looking for a new direction for his career, one that would help him provide for his family, and where he could make a difference in others' lives. He had worked only three jobs in his life, first as a soldier stationed at Fort Ord, CA,



James LeQuire (r) working with a patient  
(Photo courtesy J. LeQuire)

then as a professional firefighter for 15 years in Wilmington, NC and then in general contracting. The economy finally allowed him the opportunity to go back to school in 2011 so he could enter a new profession and improve his financial situation.

"I decided to enroll at SCC because I needed to stay in the local area and SCC was a nationally ranked community college. It was

important that I receive a quality education and I felt confident SCC would provide this." After doing considerable research James decided to enroll in the Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program because that field offered a positive outlook for future job security in a career that allowed him to help others.

Balancing school, family and work was the most challenging aspect of his enrollment at SCC. "It was very difficult to do, but early on I realized I needed to prioritize my time and dedicate the majority of it to my educational goals. I was very lucky to get accepted into a program that paid for all my tuition and expenses. I treated school like it was my job for the entire three years."

### A Rewarding Career Focused on Helping Others

The most rewarding aspect of working as a PTA for James is getting to help people recover physically while also gaining a lot of insight about them personally. "I think all patients, especially the elderly have a lot of life wisdom to offer if we just listen," James says. Because of this he plans to continue to work full time as a PTA, gaining as much knowledge as he can to be an effective clinician.

James encourages students considering enrollment in the PTA program to be aware that it requires a significant amount of dedication and perseverance to be successful, and the earlier this is applied the better off students will be. He also encourages students to take advantage of the many resources on campus including the Learning Assistance Center, Student Support Services, grants and scholarships, and tutoring services. "SCC gave me the opportunity to go a new direction with my career and the staff in Student Support Services provided the support and encouragement to help me achieve my goal." With that support James was able to start a new chapter in his life.

### About Student Support Services at SCC

Student Support Services at Southwestern Community College assists students in achieving their goal of graduating from SCC and/or transferring to a senior institution. The program supports students in dealing effectively with all aspects of college life. Services are provided free for students who meet eligibility requirements. Eligibility for Student Support Services is based upon students demonstrating a need for academic support and at least one of the following criteria: Be a first generation college student; meet income eligibility guidelines; or have a documented ADA disability.

Student Support Services is a federally funded, Department of Education TRIO Program which provides SCC \$1 million in financial support to assist students in graduating and transferring. Learn how Student Support Services can assist you by calling 828.339.4420 or emailing Susan Bradshaw at [s\\_bradshaw@southwesterncc.edu](mailto:s_bradshaw@southwesterncc.edu).

## STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Double your chance of graduating!

Student Support Services participants graduate at twice the rate of the general student body at SCC.

### Services Include

Academic Co-Advising

Financial Literacy & Scholarship Workshops

Tutoring

Transfer Initiatives

Supplemental Grant Aid

Academic, Personal and Career Counseling

Volunteer & Civic Involvement

Cultural Enrichment

Resource Loan Program

Referral Service

