

Determination Propels SCC Grad to Successful Career

Michael Ramey is the epitome of a Southwestern Community College success story. He started at SCC in 2000, enrolling in the Electronics Engineering Technology program. His advisor in Student Support Services suggested that he double major in Computer Engineering Technology, a decision that has paid off tremendously. After graduating from SCC, Michael enrolled at Western Carolina University and earned a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering technology. Having the dual background in electronics and computers has propelled his career. "As it turned out, Wunderlich Malec Engineering, a system integration company had a position that utilized my educational background and skills. Most controls integrators do not have the IT, networking, computer, and server skills that many new clients are looking for to work with complex IT / controls integrated systems. The faculty at SCC gave me the skills to communicate with employees at the operations and maintenance levels, as well as the corporate level."



Michael Ramey on the job at Wunderlich Malec

complex IT / controls integrated systems. The faculty at SCC gave me the skills to communicate with employees at the operations and maintenance levels, as well as the corporate level."

Balancing Family, Work and School

Double majoring is a significant commitment of time and energy. Michael worked full time on the night shift at Hanes Brands Inc. while enrolled at SCC and was promoted from operator to electronic technician after graduating. "It was very difficult balancing family, work and school. I would be in class from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and then drive 45 minutes home to clean up and then drive straight to work at 7 p.m. I worked all night and went back to school at 8 a.m. without getting sleep and did this for several years. I hardly had time with my family, there were days I didn't see my family. Financially it was hard because my wife stayed at home to be available to our kids because I did not have the time to help out. My wife and kids sacrificed a lot for me to achieve my goals. I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for the support of my family. It was definitely hard and stressful for those six years, but it was well worth it!"

Student Support Services: Providing the Tools to Succeed

Michael credits SCC and Student Support Services for preparing him to succeed. "SCC had many resources that helped me through my education. From enrolling and getting financial help, to my teachers. Everyone played an important role to help me succeed. At SCC you don't feel like a number, each student is valued. Student Support Services gave me the tools to reach my goal. Even though it seemed like I was taking on too much by double majoring, working a full time job and having a family, they supported me and provided me with whatever resources or information I needed. I really liked the fact that whenever I had a question or concern, someone was always available at Student Support Services to assist me." That is what Student Support Services at SCC does best, supporting students as they aspire to achieve their goals. Learn how Student Support Services can assist you by calling 828.339.4000 or emailing Susan Bradshaw at s_bradshaw@southwesterncc.edu.

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.

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

