

## Honors Graduate Learns it is Never Too Late to Pursue Her Passion



Janet Simpson prepares for SCC commencement May 8, 2014.

Like many Southwestern Community College students, Janet Simpson enrolled to pursue her goal of a second career. "I decided to enroll at SCC and pursue a degree in Health Information Technology because I knew I wanted a career in healthcare, but I don't have the stomach for bodily fluids and open wounds. After researching the different programs, Health Information Technology seemed to be the best fit for me." Health Information Technology turned out to be an excellent choice and Janet graduated with honors this spring. Having recently graduated, Janet's plans now are to take the Registered Health Information Technician exam, get her credential, and find a job coding patient diagnosis and procedures, preferably working from home. She is also considering working as a privacy officer in the future.

"Protecting patient information is vital, and I want to be involved in helping keep it private."

### The Challenge of Returning to School after 40 Years

After being out of school for over forty years, returning was quite scary for Janet. "I asked myself over and over, what were you thinking, going back to school at this stage in your life? I was determined to do it." It was a difficult process, which included long nights of studying and many days wondering if she would graduate. Through it all she also worked part-time as a cashier. One way she coped with the stress of balancing the priorities of family, work and school was through barrel racing, a sport she became interested in when she got her first horse at age 12. "I currently belong to the Macon County Horse Association and attend shows. I guess you may say I have a need for speed."

### Student Support Services a "Lifesaver"

Janet credits her instructors, classmates and family for being very supportive while she was enrolled at SCC. She also believes that Student Support Services (SSS) played a critical role in her success. "Student Support Services, specifically my advisor Laurie Butler, was a lifesaver for me. I went to Laurie with any problem and her kind words would always smooth away whatever the issue at the time was. SSS was very helpful in setting me up with a tutor for several of my classes. I will forever be grateful for Laurie and everyone involved with SSS. Others returning to school should get involved with SSS and let the fine people there help and guide them. Also, if you are returning to school choose a program you can become passionate about and dedicate yourself to it. The reward in the end is a GREAT feeling of accomplishment. When I walked across the stage at graduation I felt like I was walking on cloud NINE!"

### 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 828.339.4000 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

