

Myra Woodard

Social Worker

Working on her Master's degree in Social Work
KentuckianaWorks College Access Center

I enrolled at Jefferson Community and Technical College in 2002. I began working with my KCAC counselor then. He's been assisting me in obtaining my financial aid every year. He's been very supportive, very understanding, very genuine - just awesome.

Not only that, the support starts at the front desk. When you walk in the door at KCAC, the people at the front desk are so welcoming and hospitable. That's been going on for years.

Working with my KCAC counselor lowered my anxieties. When I first enrolled in JCTC, I couldn't receive financial assistance because I tested on too low a grade level. They diagnosed me with a learning disability.

I don't believe that I actually have a learning disability. I believe I just missed out on so many learning opportunities because abuse and neglect. How could I learn anything if I wasn't even going to class?

I had my CNA. My goal was to go to JCTC and obtain a degree in Human Services because I'm also in recovery and I want to give back to the community. Because of the opportunities, the assistance, and the support I received, I was able to earn a double degree – an Associate's in Arts and an Associate's in Science in Human Services – with honors.

I received scholarships and even several awards. I don't think I would have achieved all these things without their assistance. KCAC was an advocate for me. I had been told "No" so many times, and they never did that.

I earned my Bachelor of Science in Social Work from Spalding University, with honors. Although they had the same services at Spalding, I continued to use KCAC for my assistance because that was like a home for me – my foundation. They continue to help as I work toward my Master's degree in Social Work.

Right now, I'm a case manager at St. Jude's Women's Recovery Center. I'm working on my CADC (Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor) to help homeless women addicted to drugs and alcohol. I have all my credit hours, I just need to send my packet in and take the state test. I will complete that certification before I begin work on my Master's degree.

I think it's very important that we find people who believe in us even when we don't believe in ourselves. And, I think that was the one thing that helped me. People at KCAC believed in me when I didn't believe in myself.