

SUCCESS STORIES

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Going back to school as a so-called "non-traditional" student can be tough. At 47 years old, Tammy Vance was apprehensive about starting college again -- she wasn't entirely sure if she would fit in at BridgeValley Community and Technical College (BVCTC). After all, weren't most college students 18 years old? she wondered.

Still, she chose to take the leap anyhow. Her dreams of earning a degree were real, and it was up to her to make them happen, no matter how many birthdays she had had (or the lack of birthdays of her classmates).

But beyond the age gap, there were hurdles Tammy had to overcome. It had been awhile since she operated a computer, let alone taken any kind of online class. Luckily, she found the Student Success Center at BVCTC which helped her develop those skills,

and set her off on the path to academic achievement at the college.

"The Student Success Center provided the direction and guidance Tammy needed," said a BVCTC staff member. "She also utilized our Accessibility Services and the tutoring center during her time here and said she couldn't recommend the Student Services staff enough to other students."

Tammy eventually became fully embedded at BVCTC, and was accepted as an intern at the Office of Student Life, which oversees activities for students at the college. The staff member said Tammy was an excellent intern who she "thoroughly enjoyed working with."

In spite of her initial misgivings, Tammy was incredibly successful at

BVCTC and has since transferred to a university. She is now attending West Virginia State University and working toward a degree in social work.

Tammy hopes her story will encourage other students, especially those who are older than the average college student, to believe in themselves, ask for help when they need it, and pursue their dreams.

- Tammy Vance,
Human Services and
Rehabilitation Studies