

HCTC Success Story: Charma Leveridge Linville



“I remember putting my hand on the door (at Hazard Community & Technical College), and I remember the amount of strength it took to open that door. I don’t know where that strength comes from. The hardest thing you have to do is walk in and sit down. That’s the hard part.”

Those are the words of Charma Leveridge Linville who not only attended Hazard Community & Technical College after taking that step, but has gone on to obtain a bachelor’s degree and is now a teacher. Because of her excellence in math, she is working with the State Department of Education as a math consultant.

Mrs. Linville has been able to achieve because she was willing to take that first step and she encourages others to do the same. “Take as many classes at Hazard as you can,” is the advice she gives to new students. “I took every class I could in Hazard before I transferred,” noted the 1992 M.C. Napier High School graduate.

“At the time, I thought HCTC was a stepping stone for me, but now I realize that it was a building block in my foundation not only as a teacher, but as a person.”

She took classes at Alice Lloyd College, then switched to Hazard Community & Technical College. In 1998, she was graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in mathematics and then received a master’s degree in Educational Leadership. She’s been with the Grant County School System in Northern Kentucky for eight years and been Math Department Chair for five years.

“I was the first person in my family to go to college. I really appreciated the help I received at Hazard Community & Technical College. The teachers are very caring; they are much more open; you

could talk to them more freely. The way I was treated at Hazard really changed my outlook," Mrs. Linville said.

Not only did she receive her education at Hazard Community & Technical College, she also discovered her life's calling for a career. "I was a tutor in the Learning Center, then a tutor in the math lab. I really liked math. That is when I fell in love with teaching math."

She also discovered that she needed to look at the "whole person" and believes that if a person's emotional life is a wreck it makes it more difficult for a him or her to learn. "This concept was modeled to me by the faculty at HCTC."

"I learned to help the self esteem of students," noted Mrs. Linville, who also said it is important to "find a way to bond with kids who have problems."

Teaching is so important to Mrs. Linville that for six years, she drove from her home in Williamstown to teach at Bluegrass Community and Technical College on Saturdays. "I loved it. If they had had Sunday classes, I would have taught then too."

"I feel like I received so much by coming to Hazard Community & Technical College, I want to give back."

Mrs. Linville said they she has discovered what many others have found to be true—she's happier when she is learning. And learning has gone to a new level for her because she is currently working on her master's degree in secondary mathematics education.

She is the daughter of Wilma and David Sizemore of Airport Gardens in Hazard. Mrs. Linville's husband is Lee Linville, a social worker in Grant County.