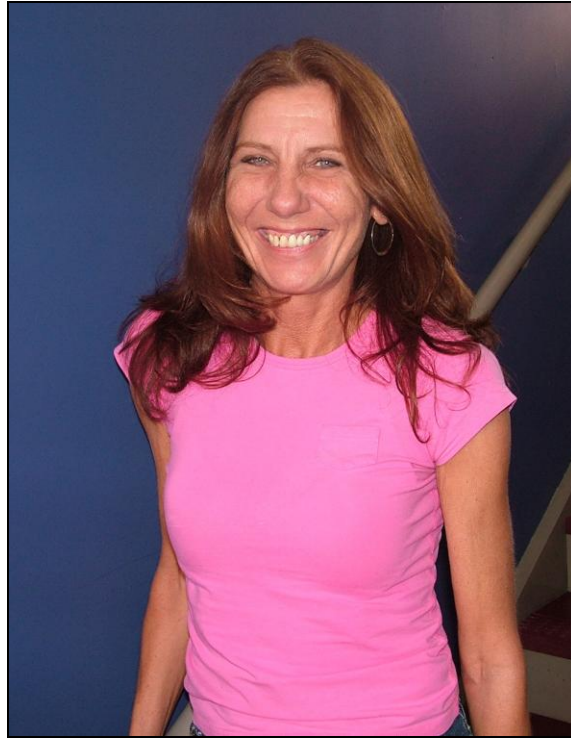


HCTC Success Story: Loretta Deaton



When Loretta Deaton enrolled at Hazard Community & Technical College at age 40, she remembers taking the steps to walk through the front door as “scary” but she put aside her fears because, “to me, it was something I had to do. I had no choice.”

Ms. Deaton’s husband died of a heart attack, and she knew she wanted to provide for her two children, who are now ages 16 and 23. “I knew I wanted more for my kids.”

“No one in my family ever went to college and I wanted my kids to see how important it was to have a college education,” she said. When she started taking classes, she was very happy to see the encouragement she received from her teachers, such as Linda Blair. “Linda Blair kept me going. She would continue to give me encouragement. I never thought I was smart and I was just expecting to pass—then I started getting A’s!

Success has come to Ms. Deaton after obtaining her associate of arts degree in May 2001 and then graduating from Lindsey Wilson College in May with a bachelor’s in human services and counseling. Her ability to keep getting A’s resulted in her having the highest Grade Point Average in her program; she was especially pleased to receive an academic excellence award during graduation from Dr. Angelia Bryant, assistant dean of the Human Services Division at Lindsey Wilson.

Faculty member Linda Blair said her heart is warmed by seeing the success of students. “Every semester, we meet just such students. On the first day of class, when I stand before my developmental studies students, I look into each face and know that among them are some unsuspecting stars. What exciting jobs we have at HCTC! What opportunities we have to help people discover who they are and what they can be. Our developmental classes are merely stepping stones along the way, and I am so proud to be a part of this college who helps to make things happen,” Mrs. Blair said.

Ms. Deaton also praised Lindsey Wilson’s Dr. Bryant and instructor Susan Patterson for taking such concern about her individual success.