

HCTC Success Story: Richard Martin



Richard Martin is his own boss and he likes it that way. He credits his ability to thrive as a self-made businessman to the classes he is taking at Hazard Community & Technical College. Martin started Blue Grass Pest Control 21 years ago. The first 12 years, he ran the business out of his home in Knott County but then he expanded, opening an office in Hazard six years ago.

Martin is thankful for the classes at HCTC which have helped him. He's taken courses in accounting, marketing, law, plus more. "Every class I've taken, I've used in my work," Martin said.

Martin said he wasn't a good student while in high school, but now at age 45 he is on the Dean's List, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honorary society, been named to Who's Who, and now has an overall GPA of 3.8 on a 4-point scale.

"Success in business comes from hard work and dedication and Martin has certainly demonstrated those two qualities," noted Larry Parke, faculty member and Division Chair at HCTC, who has taught Martin in his classes. "I'm also impressed by the hard work and dedication Richard has for his classes," Parke said.

If the decision comes to going to class or taking on a last-minute call, Martin said he goes to class. He has made getting his education a priority. While only taking one course a semester, he has designed his schedule so he can give adequate amount of time to his school work.

"I would recommend someone in business to take classes," Martin said. "Going to school keeps me inspired. I keep getting ideas on how to be a better businessman."