

HCTC Success Story: Shannon Caldwell



Paula Caldwell, and her husband, Shannon Caldwell, are success stories from Hazard Community & Technical College. Shannon's mother, Ruth Caldwell of London, says she is very proud of what her son has accomplished despite being blind. Mr. and Mrs. Caldwell are employed as consultants and have a contract with the University of Kentucky Human Development Institute.

Despite being blind

Two are successful after graduating from HCTC and UK

A Leslie County man who graduated from Hazard Community & Technical College in 1998 despite being blind continued on to get a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky in 2000 and become a consultant to help others with disabilities.

For some people, going away to college means leaving home but Shannon Caldwell fondly remembers that furthering his education at Hazard Community & Technical College meant he got to be closer to his Leslie County home. That's because his high school years were spent at the Kentucky School of the Blind in Louisville.

Coming to school in Hazard provided another plus for Shannon—that's where he met Paula, also of Leslie County. The two married. Paula, who is also blind, also graduated from HCTC in 1998 and UK in 2000 and joins her husband in his consulting work. The couple has a contract with the University of Kentucky Human Development Institute.

Paula praised HCTC for its learning environment and the faculty and staff for their helpfulness. "I never felt so comfortable than while at Hazard Community & Technical College," Paula said. Shannon echoed her thoughts. "Everyone was here for the same reason," Shannon said, noting that people treated each other with respect.

Shannon also praised the college academically. "I was well prepared to go on to UK," Shannon said. "I was told what I would encounter. I had great help from Student Support Services because the staff was willing to spend the extra time needed for me, unlike any other school I have attended."

Shannon and Paula Caldwell are supporting themselves, making a good living. Their dreams have realized and it started with getting an education at Hazard Community & Technical College.