

I started attending classes at CCV in the fall of 2012. After my daughter graduated from high school I knew that I had to do something in order to get ahead in life. I met with a counselor from the Division of the Blind and Visually Impaired and planned my course of action. Why a counselor from there you ask? Oh, did I forget to tell you that I'm legally blind? I have retinitis pigmentosa. This is a degenerative eye disease and I'm slowly losing my eye-sight. This hasn't slowed me down though, and many people who meet me don't know it unless I tell them.

Well, on with my story. I started taking classes and it was hard at first. I had been out of high school for almost 30 years. In my first class there was at least an eighteen year difference between me and the other students. During many class discussions the other students would look at me like I was from another planet. Of course I'm not, but a different generation, yes. We got into a discussion one day about work and our goals in life. I have much experience working with children, but through volunteering, not paid employment. I have been in leadership positions and enjoy the challenges. One of the other students mentioned the Student Advisory Board and thought that I would be a great person to join the group. Having done similar things in the past I agreed to give it a try.

I began attending meetings in November of 2012, and found a niche for me at CCV other than just attending classes. I enjoyed meeting with other students and planning activities for our academic center. In the spring of 2013 I attended my first statewide meeting and found that being a member of the student board was even more than I had thought. I became more involved and eventually became the leader of our group in St. Albans. I really wanted to start doing more at our center and for the student board to be as active as possible. This I have done and I don't ask for anything in return.

In January of 2014 I received the surprise of a lifetime. I received a letter stated that I was to be a recipient of the Leadership Scholarship. I was nominated by the advisors of the center. I will never forget this moment at CCV. To be recognized for my efforts touched me greatly and when I receive the certificate of recognition in March 2014, I will frame it. Though I never actively seek recognition for anything I do, it warms me to no end to be told "You've Done Good."