

Alumni Spotlight Featuring Amy Hixson

Amy Hixson, 43, of Scottdale, attended Westmoreland County Community College starting in 2001 and is our featured alumnus.

So what made Hixson want to attend Westmoreland after high school?

"I began my college career after graduating high school. When I first started, it was because it was close to home. I didn't really like college and felt out of place since I was such an introvert, so I quit and began

working full time at an early learning center," Hixson said.

"Years later, I was encouraged to start my educational journey again and the TEACH program would help me to accomplish that. Due to working full-time, as well as outside activities and other obligations, I only took one class a semester. However, after many years, I finally graduated with my associates and graduated with honors," says Hixson.

While at the college, Hixson studied Elementary Education with a focus on PreK - 4th grade. She is currently in her third semester at Carlow College, working on a degree in Elementary Education.

When looking back at her college days, Hixson does have a fond memory that sticks out.

" Graduation... it was so special, especially after attending for so long and having so many obstacles. The early childhood education classes were memorable, too. They prepared me well for my time at Carlow," says Hixson.

Hixson states, "It's hard to choose a favorite instructor. First, there was Professor Brandi Slider. She encouraged me every step of the way! Then, Professor Wielbruda-Mayhew. He helped me find a love of math and helped me understand concepts I couldn't even understand when I was in junior/senior high school."

The college has prepared Hixson for her current career by making her a stronger, more professional teacher. It has helped how she creates her classroom.

Hixson is married to her husband, David and enjoys attending church and gardening, and works at Frock Childcare Learning Center, LLC.

Advice to our current college students?

"Stay committed! You can accomplish what you started... even if it takes you WAY longer than a traditional student," she concluded.