

Success Stories

Dena Quintero



Dena Quintero received an associate degree in Culinary Technology in 2004 and now works as a part-time instructor in the program at FTCC.

One of her best memories from her FTCC college experience is the service experience provided by the students to the FTCC faculty, staff, and members of the community through the preparation of lunches and dinners.

"I had never worked the kitchen side of a restaurant before, and this experience gave me a sense of accomplishment and pride," Dena said.

Dena feels the FTCC Culinary Technology instructors are absolutely the best.

"Kay Gilbert, Janet Powell, and Richard Kugelmann gave me the knowledge of the culinary field. I am now an instructor of Garde Manger and Basic Culinary Skills, and I turn to Richard Kugelmann for advice and to seek his superior knowledge of culinary arts. He is one of the best in Fayetteville, and I am so very proud to work with him every day. The skills I learned have given me the opportunity to work in some great places and also gave me confidence."

Success Stories

Diana Cristea



Dr. Diana Cristea arrived in the United States from Europe in 1997. She did not speak English very well, so she immediately began learning the English language and American culture. By 1998, she enrolled in the Dental Hygiene program at Fayetteville Technical Community College and graduated in 2000 with an associate degree. That fall, she began the 4-year dental program at UNC Chapel Hill, graduated with honors, and obtained the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree in 2004.

After obtaining the North Carolina Dental License, Dr. Cristea moved to the West Coast to continue her post-doctoral education; she currently works in a group private practice and teaches part time as an associate clinical professor at the University of Washington.

"The FTCC Dental Hygiene program harmoniously combined the clinical and theoretical parts of the curriculum. I really enjoyed the social diversity at FTCC. My experience there proved that this country offers many opportunities," says Dr. Cristea.

While a student at FTCC, Dr. Cristea said that everyone who interacted with the FTCC Dental Hygiene students impacted her life in a positive way, and she also expressed her gratitude to FTCC's Patricia Nunalee for providing encouragement during her early FTCC visits by recommending useful books to help her improve her ability to use the the English language. "I received a great education at FTCC, and now, I am pursuing my dreams."

Success Stories

Jean Stinson



Jean Stinson has received her certification credentials (I and II) in Early Childhood Administration at FTCC and is currently pursuing an associate's degree in Early Childhood Education/Special Needs. She completed her certification studies while working a full-time job and continues working full time while pursuing her associate degree studies.

Jean expresses her thanks to FTCC for allowing her to juggle full-time employment and receive a high-quality education through courses offered at night, on the weekends, and online. "I am working to support my family, and I'm going to school to finish a degree."

What is equally important Jean adds, is that she has established a bond with FTCC that goes beyond the academic realm. Meeting and getting to know the Early Childhood Education staff members have further strengthened her relationship with FTCC, and she enjoys being with other women who share similar goals and strive to achieve the same success she desires. Jean feels the instructors at FTCC are always ready and willing to help students in any way possible.