



Michele Marcum, Southern WV Community and Technical College

Michele Marcum was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. However, her parents originated from Mud Fork in Logan, WV. Michele decided to return home in 2002 to move closer to her parents. She is the proud mother of 3 daughters, ages 31, 28, and the oldest daughter who is deceased. She also has two stepdaughters ages 24 and 9 years of age.

Michele previously was a travel agent for 10 years and a former secretary-treasurer for her father's company, Angels' Enterprises, where she developed some experience in business and accounting. Her father passed away four years ago, and her mother chose to close the family-owned business.

“Financial Difficulty and the Path to Southern”

She was faced with uncertainty and financial hardship when she lost her job. She enrolled in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, and she had to complete community service hours to receive the monthly benefits. She was placed in the Excel Program on the Logan Campus, which counted toward her community service hours. She stated, “This program gave me the courage I needed to continue my education at Southern.”

She completed her portfolio in Excel and received two college courses that transferred to Southern. She decided to take business and accounting courses at Southern's Logan Campus because this seemed to be her area of interest, and since she had years of experience in business.

It seemed like yesterday when Michele Marcum came in to see me, the student services specialist on the Logan Campus, and she entered the TANF Program. I remember her being a participant in the Excel Program at that time. She seemed somewhat timid but determined. I think this is what students need overall-motivation. I think the old English proverb would fit her well. “Where there is a will, there's a way.”

Although she has faced many obstacles, Michele has let nothing stop her on her academic journey at Southern. She is an excellent example of why the TANF Program is so successful at Southern. She expressed that she liked Southern for several reasons: The campus is close to her residence, so she could get a quality education without traveling a long distance.

The smaller classes allowed her to develop a better one-on-one teacher and student relationship, by making sure that she understood what was being taught. Finally, the online and campus courses together gave her the best of teacher and classroom instruction and helped her to become more advanced, using online technology.

Michele will complete the Business Administration and Business Accounting Degree in May 2018. She plans on furthering her education to become a certified public accountant or, perhaps, own her own travel agency in the near future.