

Annie Timmons



Annie recalled her return to higher education after a shift in her employer led her to explore other options for career satisfaction and success. She defined her initial start in higher education and the drive to a career change as a social worker:

“In 2010 the private insurance company that I was employed with for 17 years was bought out by a large corporation and they reduced the workforce. I decided to go back to school full-time at CPCC. I graduated from CPCC on 12/11/13 with an Associate in Arts (College Transfer) Degree.”



At the time, Annie and her husband were foster parents, and Annie’s heart went out for the children that were placed in their home. Annie pursued a Social Work degree, and her motivation for doing so was the result of wanting to advocate for these children she worked closely with. The Social Work program at UNC Charlotte is what she chose to complete her Bachelor’s to enable this career change. When asked about her experience as an adult student, Annie described the services that she utilized and her classroom experience that made the transition easier.

“I’m so appreciative of the many valuable resources at UNCC that’s in place to guide students on the path to success. I’m very thankful for the many resources that were made available to me, such as Tutorial Services, which

helped me succeed in Statistics, the Writing Center, who provided assistance in many of my social work papers, and my professors. My professors have prepared me to enter the social work profession with a better understanding of the terms, "self-determination" and "empowerment". During my social work classes, I have developed self-awareness both professionally and personally. This experience will allow me to advocate for the vulnerable and disadvantage populations I will be serving”.

Annie’s transition was accompanied with initial apprehensions that were quickly at ease through the help of support services that aided her along the way, including Veterans Services and OASES.

“I have really enjoyed my experience at UNCC as an Adult Student. At first I was nervous going into the classroom knowing that I would most likely be the oldest student present; however, after a couple of classes, I felt comfortable. My classmates were willing to assist me when necessary and the professors were available if needed, both in and out of the classroom. As a veteran, I was delighted that UNCC provided a designated area for veterans to hang out in. The Veterans Services Office is a great place for veterans, and I’d like to see more female veterans utilize the space”.

OASES services helped Annie along the way as well. Annie recalled that during her first semester, she reached out to our office for guidance as the campus is rather large (and growing!), and she was looking for a place that she could fit in. Debbie Smith, an advisor in OASES, embraced her and made her feel

welcome. Annie even volunteered as a Mentor for the [Adult Student Mentoring program \(AMPS\)](#) through OASES, which pairs experienced mentors with newly admitted adult students in their first semester to make the transition to college as seamless as possible.

Annie's advice for adult students enrolled or seeking to come back to school as an adult transfer student is:

"To adult students, I want to encourage you to stay focus and believe in yourself. If you can believe it, you can receive it! It's never too late to go for your dreams. Continue to press toward the goal and you will succeed!"

Annie immersed herself into Charlotte's community of scholars both inside and outside of the classroom. In the summer of 2015, she was selected to participate in The Charlotte Research Scholar Program. In this program, she was part of a team conducting research on men living in a supportive housing community. She described the experience as "awesome", and her and her team published an abstract of their research findings as a result. From that experience, she decided that she would get involved in as many activities as possible, joining honors programs such as the Social Work Society - Phi Alpha, Pinnacle Honor Society, and the National Society of Leadership and Success where she received the National Engaged Leader Award.

After graduating on May 13, 2016 with her Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Degree, Annie will begin UNCC's Advance Standing Master of Social Work (MSW) Program on May 23, 2016 to continue in her graduate studies. Her aspiration is to work with veterans diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after earning her MSW.

OASES sends our congratulations to Annie for her journey to graduation at UNC Charlotte as an adult transfer student, and wishes her the very best of luck in her future endeavors in graduate school!

We hope you feel inspired and have enjoyed reading more about one of our many talented adult students.

If you are interested in sharing your journey or success story with us, please visit:

<http://oases.uncc.edu/student-information/student-success-stories> to learn how.

To learn more about [North Carolina Community College's \(NCCC\) Pathways to Degrees](#) and the [admissions process as a transfer student](#), consider [reading more here](#) about how you can complete your degree from UNC Charlotte today.