

Crystal Larimer

I graduated with a B.S. in Management with a concentration in Entrepreneurship Innovation and Technology (small business). I got married the weekend after graduation and then worked as an office manager for a small company in the corporate research center. We then moved to Ashburn, Virginia, and I was a coordinator for another company now owned by Anderson Daymon Worldwide. We had our daughter Chloe and moved back to Christiansburg for my husband, Dan. His company Open Tech Inc is still doing well in the Corporate Research Center. I am a housewife/mother full time now and enjoy working with community groups such as MOPS, Blacksburg Newcomer's Group and Bible Study Fellowship.

I thoroughly enjoyed being a participant in the Project Success group. We had a large group and the people were so much fun. I was not naturally motivated and driven in school like a lot of my friends were and never needed to work hard to do well in high school. It was fun to be in a group of people that were more like me. We had a lot of fun figuring out how to make school work more enjoyable and finding resources together (such as finding better places to work, getting a foot massager to keep you awake while you read or just learning to read faster- whatever works!). Our leaders had a lot of good information and made the class fun. Our first meeting we had to go around the room and introduce ourselves like an AA meeting. "Hi, I am (fill in blank), I have a problem with procrastinating and getting to my 8:00 classes " etc. I enjoyed hearing about our group members and what was going on in their week. I learned a lot about making goals and planning. It is simple but I would not have done it without having a group to keep me accountable. It was fun to have weekly goals and follow-up. For a freshman with mostly large lectures, it was nice to not be a number for a change. I thought the group was going to be lame and painful but it was such a breath of fresh air!

I also enjoyed being peer facilitator. Seeing some of the people in my group around campus was always fun. I enjoyed checking up with them and encouraging them. Keeping myself with the program made me continue to practice the goal setting activities and using a planner.

These groups help by making us realize we do need to do better and find ways to make that happen instead of focusing on feeling like a failure. I learned how to find resources and get help if I needed it. Once you admit you have a struggle you can find the solution. I made good grades my junior and senior year and tended to lead group projects for classes. I am grateful this program was in place while I was in college. I was thinking about taking time off for a few semesters to figure things out. I ended up not needing to.