

Graduate Testimonial

Markese Harris

Making the right decision about what to do after high school can be scary and confusing. During my senior year of high school, I was told to find a college that I wanted to sign up for, but I know that I didn't have the money for living in a dorm at a 4-year college. So, I decided to sign up to attend PCCUA.

I was satisfyingly surprised at the genuine college feel that the community college had. I was strongly welcomed and had an opportunity to learn more about the value of choosing PCCUA. My experience at PCCUA gives many students the opportunity like me to begin their academic journey at a much lower price.

There were a lot of fun events and memories that I participated in. I learned that a big amount of people graduate and transfer to a four-year college as a junior, while many others attend PCCUA for a year or two, gain a lot of credit, and transfer to a 4-year college. I was able to really figure out what I was interested in and how to be successful in my classes.

When I started college in the summer of 2019, my education became my top priority, and I was influenced to learn great things about being successful for my future. On the first day I was nervous attending my classes for the semester, but I was sure that I wanted to major in information systems to learn how computer systems work.

While I attended PCCUA, I had amazing teachers that sat down and talked with me about what I wanted to do in the IT field. During that time, I was trying to figure out on my own what was going to be my next step if I wanted to work in this field. That's when I talked with two of my teachers, Ms. Grove and Ms. Purdy, and my college advisor, Ms. Quattlebaum, influenced me in thinking of getting my bachelor's degree. They have taught me a lot about coding, how cybersecurity works, and how many different operating systems work.

While I was attending PCCUA, Ms. Grove and Purdy asked me and a classmate if we were interested in attending a program called LSAMP. I have learned a lot of different things from this program for my education that will help me in dealing with college classes in the future. I gained a lot of knowledge from many different speakers. They gave guidance to all the students who are looking for internships to gain a large amount of hands-on professional experience for a future career.

After completing two years at PCCUA, I decided to transfer to the University of Arkansas Grantham to continue toward an information system bachelor degree. From the time at PCCUA, I am happy with my decision to start my college career there. It has allowed me to grow academically, socially, and to better career opportunities. I was able to stay at home, keep my job, participate in a valuable a great opportunity program, save a ton of money, and prepare for the next step in my academic journey. For me, it was the best decision I ever made.