

Blue Mountain  
Community  
College  
Central Oregon  
Community  
College  
Chemeketa  
Community  
College  
Clackamas  
Community  
College

Clatsop  
Community  
College  
Klamath  
Community  
College  
Lane Community  
College  
Linn Benton  
Community  
College  
Mt. Hood

Southwestern  
Oregon  
Community  
College

Community  
College  
Oregon Coast  
Community  
College  
Portland  
Community  
College  
Rogue  
Community  
College  
Southwestern  
Oregon

Community  
College  
Tillamook Bay  
Community  
College  
Treasure Valley  
Community  
College  
Umpqua  
Community  
College

# Tina Carpenter

Tina Carpenter, 29, worked as a Skoog Operator, Dryer Feeder, and Spreader Relief for Roseburg Forest Products (Coquille) for about six years. However, a January 2007 layoff resulting from the impacts of foreign trade left her and about 70 others without work and a paycheck. Carpenter evaluated her options and determined that the challenging circumstances presented an opportunity to attend college as a fulltime student. Southwestern Oregon Community College drew her attention, as she felt it was “close to home, friendly and not too crowded.”

Carpenter had always thought about going back to school, but she says, “It wasn’t until I had no job to go to that I actually realized it was something I could do.” Carpenter, a 1998 graduate of Coquille High

School, was awarded a \$1,200 scholarship for displaced workers by the Southwestern Oregon Community College Foundation for the 2008-09 academic year. This, coupled with Trade Act Program assistance through South Coast Business Employment Corporation, allowed her to complete her schooling.

“With the lay-offs came some funding assistance, and I wasn’t about to let that go to waste.”

With a goal of attaining training so that she could identify a career path, she studied mostly human services, but also took business, geology, psychology, and computer classes that offered her a variety of knowledge and skills. She graduated with honors in 2009 with an AS in Human Services and an AAOT from Southwestern Oregon Community



College. Carpenter is the first member of her family to earn any degree or certification.

“Not working was very difficult for me—I have always gone to work,” she said. “But once I realized I could apply my work ethics to my coursework, I was successful and my stress was reduced greatly.”

Carpenter now works as a Resource & Referral Specialist for South Coast Business Employment Corporation. Her new-found skills have been useful in working with the public, understanding rules and regulations, documenting and tracking case notes, following strict confidentiality practices, employing interview techniques, determining client needs, and addressing the community services programs that may help clients achieve those needs.



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