

Betty Bishop earned enough college credit from life experience that she was able to complete her associate degree at Southern State Community College.

Life experience could lead to college credit at SSCC

Do you have life experience that might be eligible for college credit? There's one way to find out. Attend a free Prior Learning Assessment Workshop from 1-5 p.m. Friday, April 4, on Southern State Community College's Central Campus, 100 Hobart Drive, Hillsboro.

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is a term used to describe learning gained outside a traditional academic environment. Put another way, it is learning and knowledge you have acquired while living your life:

In fact, she could. And Bishop had plenty of experience from which to draw. Among other roles, she has served as mayor, community development director, and city manager, in addition to volunteer work with Grow Highland County, Highland County Chamber of Commerce, and the Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health board.

“I needed to set an example for my family and my community,” said Bishop. “I needed them to know that education is the most precious thing one can acquire.”

Bishop had always dreamed of going to college, but her father had a heart attack while she was in high school and she entered the workforce instead to help her family financially.

In 1980, Bishop was elected mayor of Hillsboro and was instrumental in orchestrating the site choice for Southern State.

“The Southern State project was important to me,” she said. “I wanted people to have an opportunity to get a college degree. I was told other communities were going to work hard to bring Southern State to their city, but I said they’re not going to work at it like I’m going to work