

ACHIEVING A DREAM AFTER YEARS OF HELPING OTHERS

Four years ago, LeAnn Perkins embarked on a mission to fulfill her dream of becoming a nurse. She enrolled at Trinity Valley Community College and took her first class – Microcomputer Applications – followed by Human Anatomy I and General Psychology.

It was a big step for LeAnn. LeAnn graduated from Kaufman High School in 1979 and went to work for the Visiting Nurse Association of Kaufman County, where she's been employed for the past 32 years as a professional service clerk, home health aide scheduler, junior secretary, medical records secretary, medical records coordinator, and office manager.

LeAnn decided in 2007 that it was time to follow her long-held dream of becoming a nurse. Putting aside worries about starting college later than most of her classmates, LeAnn was determined to complete the nursing program. On May 12, 2011 LeAnn walked onstage at the graduation ceremony at TVCC's main campus in Athens to receive her associate of applied science degree.

LeAnn will take the state examination to become a registered nurse on June 13. Instead of working behind the reception desk, LeAnn will soon begin making home visits as a part-time nurse with VNA of Kaufman County. She's also got work lined up at a Tyler hospital in the oncology unit.

LeAnn's next goal is to complete 50 years of service with VNA of Kaufman County, which will happen in 2029. She's grateful for the support she received there to accommodate her class schedule.

"When I started college, graduation seemed like such a long way off, but realizing a dream begins by taking taking a first step," LeAnn states. As English novelist George Eliot observed, "It's never too late to be what you might have been." LeAnn has shown how true that is.



LeAnn Perkins with parents Raymon and Mildred Wood at the Trinity Valley Community College graduation ceremony.