

Celeste Scott: A Calling To Serve Others

Lincoln Herald Staff

DALLAS--For Celeste Scott, life is all about helping other people.

Amongst a host of recent graduates of Gaston College, Scott earned an associate of applied sciences degree in human services technology. A calling to serve others, especially the elderly, led her to enroll in the program in 2021, and she now intends to advance her education in the field of social work.

“I plan to be an advocate for the elderly population,” said Scott. “In my work-based learning placement in pastoral care support, I have been able to foster deep connections with the elderly at the First Baptist Church in Gastonia. It has affirmed that I am called to work with this population.”

She added that she looks forward to continued connections and outreach.

Knowing your studies are preparing you for the right career path can often make your journey easier. However, Scott suffers from total blindness, due to diabetic retinopathy, and that, she says, has been “a true struggle, academically.”

She utilizes a software program called Jaws in order to have her work read to her. She has had to learn the computer and keyboard shortcuts to make some of her work go faster. She cut back her courseload to one class while she was learning the new software with the help of North Carolina Services for the Blind. But since she mastered the software, she has been successful with a heavier schedule.

“I receive special accommodations through accessibility services at Gaston College,” said Scott.” My professors are aware of my needs and have been very supportive. I have been able to bring my peer-support specialist to my seated classes, and she helps me navigate the campus.”

Dana Rudisill, the head of Gaston College’s human services technology program, has been a huge advocate for Scott.

“She is always eager to learn,” said Rudisill, adding that Scott is “committed to overcoming obstacles, remains determined and perseveres until she reaches her goals.”

The TRiO Student Support Services program and the Gaston College Writing Center have also provided great support and encouragement to Scott. Overall, her experience at the college has been extremely positive.

“I have met wonderful people,” Scott said, “and I have been given good resources that helped make me successful at Gaston College and beyond. I would give this advice to anyone who needs to hear it: ‘Don’t let your disability stop you from achieving your dreams. It is never too late.’”