

CCV Story- Samantha Barrette

My CCV story is quite an interesting one. During my senior year of high school, I had a fairly good idea of where I wanted to go to college and what I would want to major in. I had a great plan to live on campus, meet tons of new people and even try out for the women's basketball team. However, one week before I was scheduled to move into the brand new dorm at Castleton State College, I had a sudden change of heart.

I had such a strong feeling inside of me saying that I cannot be two and a half hours away from my home; I couldn't shake it. I then decided- last minute to withdrawal from CSC and apply to CCV. While running out of time to apply, transfer all my information and financial aid and sign up for new classes at CCV- I made the deadline with only a day and a half to spare. And once I was done- I felt that I had made a very big mistake.

No more than two weeks into the semester- that strong feeling inside of me that I had previously had, telling me that I needed to stay home, came around full-circle. One of my family members was diagnosed with Leukemia and life had flipped upside down. I was now in a place that I wasn't familiar with, feeling that I had just made a horrible mistake that could possibly affect my future and worst of all, one of my family members life was in jeopardy.

Within the first few days of receiving the horrible news, I was in turmoil. I wasn't comfortable enough with any staff at CCV to reach out to them and let them know what was going on in life outside of school. I refused to miss class because I didn't want to explain the situation by myself to any of my instructors; however, being present in class- my mind wasn't really there. One day, I forced myself to email my advisor and update her. I needed to keep her informed incase I would need to take serious time off of school. I was shocked and relieved by the response that I received.

Kerri Brooks- my advisor, helped me approach all of my instructors with my situation. With her help, I received nothing but up-lifting and positive responses. All of my instructors supported me in every way they could. I wanted to succeed in school, regardless of my personal life- and the CCV faculty and instructors made that possible for me. As time went on, I learned how to adapt to be successful in the new environment at school and also at home. The caring and understanding ways of the CCV faculty really helped me through that first scary and rocky semester. I could never thank them enough.