



Becca Johnson

PSU student, previously dual enrolled at PCC/PSU

Age: 52

Year: Junior

Major: Child and Family Studies

Goal: to provide resources to those in need through child and family service organizations

It was through providing key information to college students on her job at the PSU Native American Student Services Office that Becca Johnson realized her own opportunity to work toward the social service career she envisions. Becca was an active high school student, but at age nineteen, after attending community college for a year, she dropped out because she was able at that time to get a good paying job as an administrative assistant without a college education. She thinks that young students face a very different job market: "Now your bachelors degree is more or less what your high school degree was back then." Becca is invigorated by working toward "a career instead of a job," and inspired by the prospect of helping those in difficulty. She returned to college in her early fifties, first starting coursework at Portland Community College. She describes the community college as a welcoming, comfortable fit because she was among many older, diverse students, and was able to start slowly with her coursework and to refresh her academic skills. She moved to dual enrollment at PCC and Portland State University and was very impressed with the ease of her transfer and the strong advisors who helped her negotiate the way. Her ultimate goal is to help people through child and family services or through a community organization, as she is grateful for the support she has received over the years, and is intently committed to giving back. In fact, she says that without state and federal grants and scholarship assistance from her Siletz tribe, she would simply not be able to pursue her education. She feels that her life experience and the empathy she has acquired for people from all walks of life will help her in child and family services. On her college goals, she says, "I'm not drawing any limits. My relatives like how 'Dr. Johnson' sounds..."