



A Springboard to the Future

Ask local entrepreneur Peggy Whited about the springboard that launched her career and she will answer "Zane State College." Whited is the owner-operator of a southeast Ohio based business, Creative Design Solutions, that specializes in Web and Graphic design.

"Zane State College absolutely prepared me," Whited said. "It gave me the tools I needed to build this business, prepared me extremely well for the work force, and taught me skills I wouldn't have learned anywhere else."

Earning a two-year Information Technology degree was just the beginning for Whited. "I was employed while I was still a student and Zane State College set that up for me as well," she said. "The employer, McMasters-Harris Auction Company, needed a web designer and called the College. I went and saw them, designed a web site using the skills I had acquired at Zane State College, and went from there."

Beyond the technical training Whited received at Zane State College, there was an intangible benefit she received that she believes was nearly as important as any program of education. "Simply put, the College boosted my confidence," Whited said.

A middle-of-the-road student in high school, Whited found herself with a new motivation once she began college. "I was in my late 30s when I started back to school. I was an average student in high school, but when I reached Zane State College I suddenly became an over-achiever. That was a real confidence booster. And the confidence in myself that I gained going to Zane State College, along with the life-long friends I made there, were worth almost as much as the education."

The confidence she gained in her abilities led Whited to pursue an additional degree after graduating from Zane State College. With one summer off to relax, she went to work on a bachelor's degree from Franklin University. Enrolling in mostly on-line classes, Whited graduated in 2005 from Franklin University earning a B.A. in Digital Communications with a concentration in marketing.

"Franklin accepted all my courses from Zane State College," Whited said. "But don't let anyone tell you the on-line courses are easier; they are very tough. I have to say here, too, that Zane State College prepared me very, very well for Franklin University."

As for the future, Whited said she loves her work and it all started with a decision to earn a degree at Zane State College. "I became a member of the Cambridge Rotary this year, which I am very proud of and is a great way to give back to the community. I am also the fiscal officer for the Village of Cumberland, which is a part-time position. And I am working on a brand new business as well. I would not have been able to do nearly what I have done without that original Zane State College degree."