

When Hanover native Caroline Campbell graduated from high school, she enrolled in a private four year college to study Environmental Science and Communications. Many of her friends were enrolling in four-year schools, and she naturally followed suit. However, within her first week, Caroline realized that this traditional path was not for her. Still, she persisted through her coursework despite her reservations. After completing two years of study, following extensive research trade opportunities available, she withdrew and enrolled in Southside Virginia Community College's Power Line Worker program. Since her enrollment, she has experienced great success and fulfillment from her decision to change paths.

Inevitably, her transition into the program has provided challenges. Caroline is the only female currently enrolled in the program, and her 5'2 stature

sometimes makes it difficult to complete tasks that are easier for her male counterparts such as lifting heavy objects. However, she has realized that every challenge can be solved; she just has to use her quickly developing problem solving skills to do things a little differently. Caroline notes that she is grateful that her instructors and peers view her as equal and give her opportunities to figure out practical solutions to overcome her limitations. Although Caroline admits that her first few days in the program were difficult, she now refers to herself as a "whole new person" who is happier and more confident doing work that she enjoys.

Caroline states that many of her friends and family members were skeptical when she decided to drop out of her four year college. However, the skepticism was short lived, as many of her friends and family now admire her resilience for breaking into a primarily male dominated field. When she completes the program, she plans to work in the industry as a female power line worker with the intent of disproving stereotypes that exist in the field. To those who find themselves in a similar situation of straying from the norm to pursue a passion, Caroline states, "Follow your interests. While you're young, try things that you won't be able to try when you're older." Caroline is a perfect example of resilience, perseverance, and courage.

