

BridgeValley

# SUCCESS STORIES



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Julia Fournier remembers wishing for a life where she did not have to work three jobs just to make ends meet. At just 21 years old, she found herself wondering how she could continue to go on this way, working nonstop, without time to enjoy the money she was making.

**"I was on the way to one of my shifts one day thinking, "there's got to be a better way," she said. "That's when I decided to pursue a degree."**

Fournier wanted to work with the Job Corps, and found that BridgeValley Community and Technical College (BVCTC) offered her the ability to get college paid for while receiving vocational training. It was then she decided she would study to become a dental hygienist.

Now Fournier works as a dental hygienist at a nearby practice in Charleston. She was able to

purchase her first car ever and is proud of the life she is living and all that she has accomplished.

One staff member said she was particularly proud of how Fournier, in spite of being very busy with school and a part time job, always made time to support her fellow students and join clubs.

"One of the most notable traits about Julia is that she always goes beyond just being a full-time student. She strives to be in positions where she can be of service to the school and to her classmates - while also holding down a part-time job," the staff member said. "She's always smiling, ever up-beat, and full of personality."

"Julia may have struggled with her last year in dental hygiene at times, but it is not in her nature to back-down from a challenge, nor to give up. She came back and succeeded in achieving her dream,"

the staff member said. "I couldn't be more proud of this young lady and all that she has accomplished. I expect we will continue to see big things from Julia."

Julia's dental hygiene program was rigorous, but she would absolutely recommend it to other aspiring hygienists.

"It's a wonderful program and a highly successful degree. If you're interested in pursuing it, prepare to be all in!" she said. "During my time I learned to lean on my peers, take advantage of every opportunity, and listen to the experience and insight offered by the very qualified teachers. It is a very difficult, but very worthwhile venture and the greatest choice I ever made."

**- Julia Fournier,  
Dental Hygiene**