

Loretta Sherrod Lassiter Reached Her Goals

Today Loretta Sherrod Lassiter owns two beauty shops and a supply store for beauty products. She lives in a handsome four-bedroom home on four and a half acres of land near Wendell.

Loretta Sherrod was a twin, one of nine children. She left high school without a diploma, even though her eight brothers and sisters all finished. "I went to Johnston Community College (then Johnston Tech) to get my high school diploma because I didn't want to break the family's record," she says.

She completed the Adult High School program at JCC. That was Step One in Loretta's plan to make a success of her life, against all odds. "I listened to a tape called 'Reaching Your Goals' while I was in the Learning Lab at the College," she recalls. "That tape became my inspiration."

Already employed at GTE-Sylvania's Smithfield plant, Loretta returned to JCC to study in the Business Department. She took as many courses as she could squeeze into her schedule.

"Loretta had something special," recalls Business instructor Luther Massengill. "She had a natural gift for getting along well with people. And she always gave 100% to whatever she was doing!"

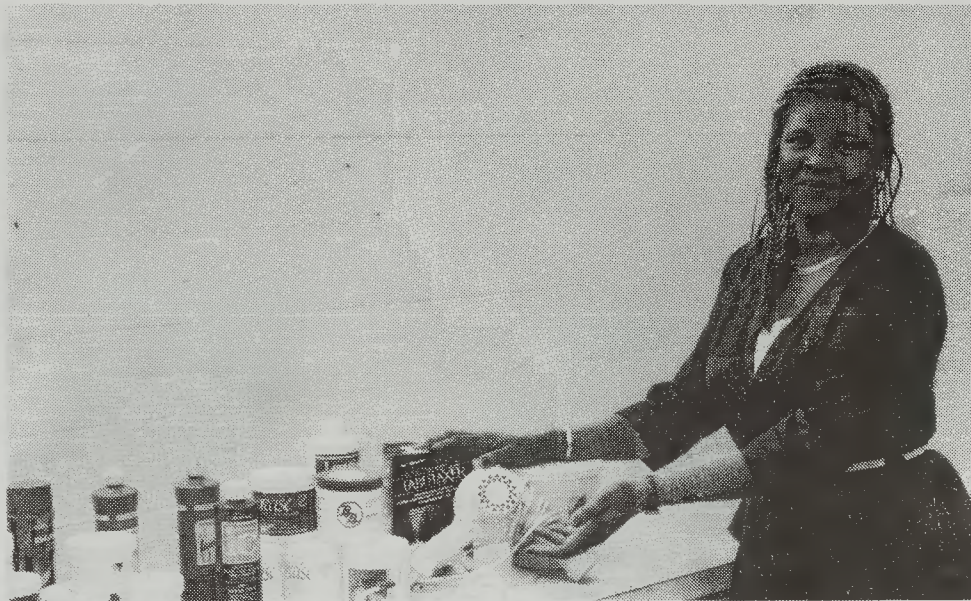
While she was a student she applied for a production supervisor's position at Sylvania, and, with strong recommendations from her instructors, she got the job.

After Sylvania closed its Smithfield plant, Loretta secured another supervisor's position, this time at Northern Telecom. She had also begun to work on certification in Cosmetology at JCC.

"I was a JCC student for seven straight years!" she says.

Between 1982 and 1986 she worked full-time at Northern Telecom and also worked as a beautician. "I've always had a lot of energy," she explains.

She earned an Associate in Applied Science degree in Industrial Management and a certificate in Cosmetology before she stopped being a JCC student.



Loretta Sherrod Lassiter displays some of the beauty supplies she distributes to area beauty shops.

"So many teachers and others at the Tech went out of their way to help me," she says. "And I am grateful for the financial aid that the school was able to find for me when I needed it."

In 1986 Loretta resigned at Northern Telecom in order to devote herself to her three business enterprises: Unique Styling Number One in Selma, Unique Styling Number Two in Wendell, and Unique Beauty Supply of Selma. She employs several JCC cosmetology graduates in the two styling salons, including her twin sister Louella and her older daughter Legrace. (Loretta's son Reginald is with the US Navy in Japan, and her younger daughter Shuphora will be a freshman at UNC-CH this fall). Her husband, Roger Neil Lassiter, who is employed at Northern Telecom, has also taken courses at JCC. This fall he will enroll in the College's Cosmetology program.

"I love people. I want everybody to be happy!" says this successful business woman. Her advice to others is simple: "You can do it - a little at a time!"

JCC TRUSTEE DONATES FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIP, CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION

Johnston Community College Trustee Walter B. Elsee and his wife Julia have recently given \$9,000 to the College's general scholarship fund. Mr. Elsee also donated \$1,500 to the College for the purpose of campus beautification.

Electronics Honor Grad Says Women Should Not Be 'Afraid' of Math

Betty Jo-Anne Owens has the highest grade point average in this year's Electronics Engineering Technology class.

Betty Jo is also the only woman in this year's EET class.

How does it feel to be so much in the minority? "It's not so bad," she says. "Sure, the boys tease me and give me a hard time. But they're like brothers to me. They pick on me like they would a sister!"

And her "brothers" have to admit that this

petite brown-eyed gal can hold her own academically!

Kenly native Betty Jo came into the Electronics Engineering program almost by accident.

Having dropped out of high school without graduating, she decided to enter the Adult High School program at Johnston Community College. She earned her diploma in less than a year.

While she was in Adult High School, Betty Jo and her classmates shared a break area with students and instructors from the College's Electronics Engineering program. Betty Jo liked what she heard about electronics, and she knew that she had always been a strong student in mathematics. She decided to take her best shot at getting an Associate in Applied Science degree in EET.

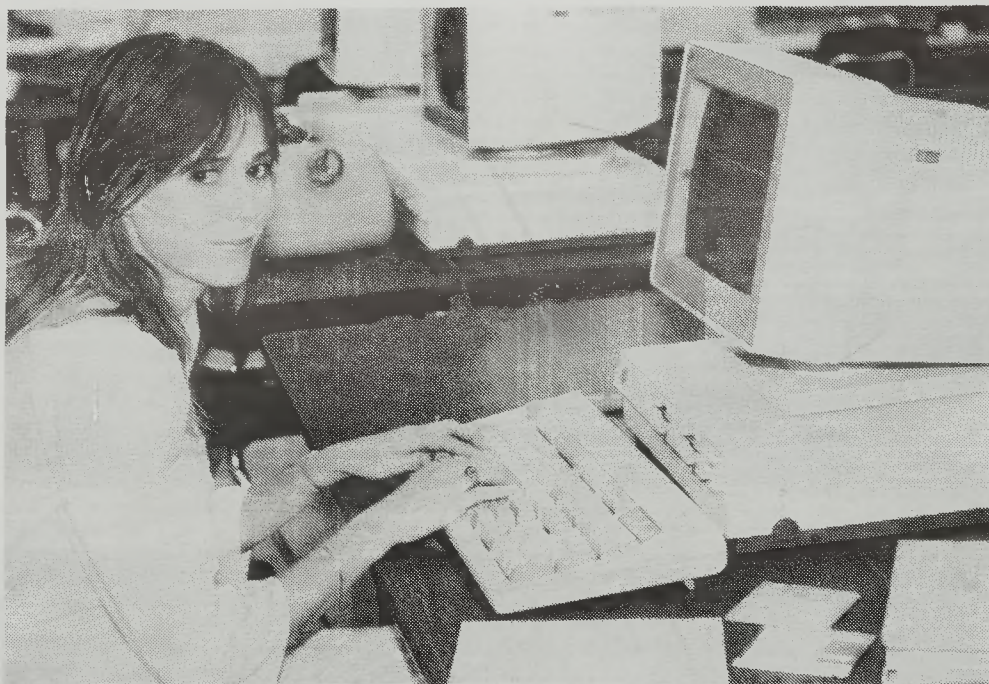
"The instructors gave me individual help when I needed it," she reports. "They were friendly and wanted me to stick in the program. Some of the boys in the class had taken electronics courses in high school that I hadn't, but (Department Chairman) Ed Bowling helped me to catch up."

Betty Jo married Jeffrey Owens in 1987. Jeffrey was already a graduate of the EET program and employed by Northern Telecom. "I saw Jeffrey's nice paycheck," Betty Jo says, "and I could see there was a great future for people with degrees in electronics!"

Betty Jo is set to graduate this fall. "I want to share my story," she says, "if it will help get more girls in electronics. Girls are so afraid of math that they pass up wide-open fields like electronics - but they shouldn't!"

C'mon girls! The Electronics Engineering Technology two-year program is a great place to prepare for a career with good pay and excellent opportunities for advancement.

Then, too, electronics classes are great places to meet bright, ambitious guys!



Betty Jo Owens works at one of JCC's new IBM computers. One incentive for entering Electronics Engineering was "a nice pay check."