



**CLEVELAND**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**SUCCESS**  
STORY

## ***Ee Smith, Associate degree, Nursing***

Ee Lee Smith began her life in a refugee camp in Thailand after her Laotian parents fled from Laos to Thailand to avoid persecution from the communist Vietcong during the Vietnam War. Fast forward and almost four decades and Ee is a CCC student pursuing an Associate degree in nursing.

As a busy mom, Smith says that coming back to school after 16 years was intimidating, but important in her goal toward pursuing a career that would allow her to give back to her community. “The nursing program offered at CCC has allowed me to choose a field where I can immediately see my success, but more importantly, enable me to help my community through service and mission work,” Smith says.

Ee says her husband and children have been her encouragement, but that there are so many to thank and continue to thank at CCC. “The encouragement I have received from faculty and staff has been amazing. Specifically, Tyra Silvers, Dr. Jay Majors, Patrina Mauney, Dr. Philip Smith, and Shellie Hamrick have all been instrumental in my journey so far with their encouragement of seeing that I reach my goal successfully,” she adds. “Cleveland Community College offers substantial academic resources coupled with personal encouragement from my instructors.”

Smith says she would overwhelmingly recommend CCC to others who have been away from school for a while. “For anyone who has been out of school, regardless of the time frame, CCC can help. It is also affordable and there is a program there to help you reach your educational goals. It is a great choice. Education in our society today is so important. Whether you’re right out of high school and unsure of what education path to take, or have a family and plan to return to college to pursue a professional career, CCC is here and ready for you,” she adds.

