

## HIGHER LEARNING

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 Whitworth College - [www.whitworth.edu](http://www.whitworth.edu)  
 Eastern Washington University - [www.ewu.edu](http://www.ewu.edu)  
 Community Colleges of Spokane -  
[www.ccs.spokane.edu](http://www.ccs.spokane.edu)  
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# “Hey, how come I’m in school all day and you’re not?”

**Y**ES, THE KIDS ARE IN SCHOOL all day, and it’s a great opportunity to clean house and catch up on your rest, but over time, that gets old, and let’s face it, so do we! Consider a new way to spend your time—be a college student. Consider it an investment in yourself and your family. You can be a role model for your children by studying along side them and making homework a priority. As an added bonus, you can learn how the latest technology enhances your learning so that your children’s knowledge won’t bypass your own. You’ve gone from mom or dad to student, just like them!

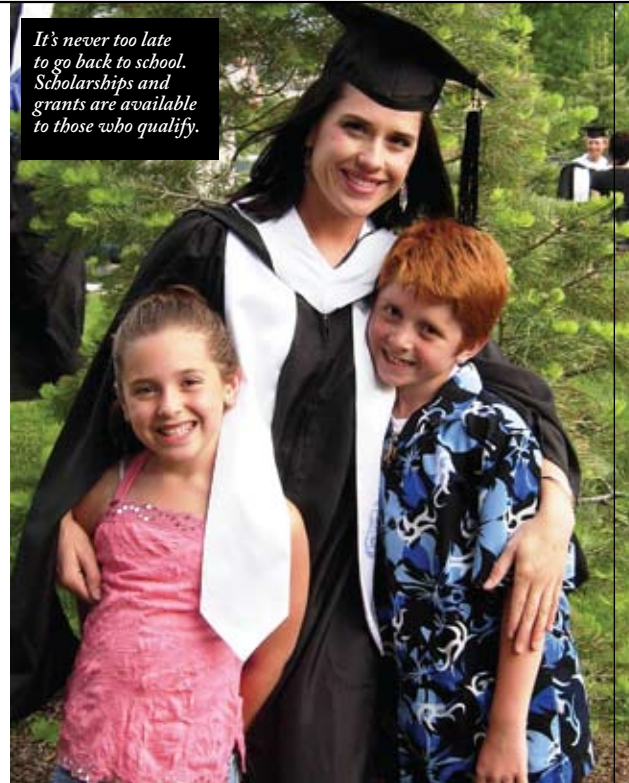
You live in an area that promotes higher learning. Consider your options in Spokane alone: Gonzaga University, Whitworth College, Eastern Washington University, University of Phoenix, and Washington State University. Let’s not forget how fortunate we are to have the Community Colleges of Spokane offering courses and programs in everyone’s neighborhood. Each institution is student centered and willing to accommodate adult learners. Attend during the day, in the evening, on weekends, or online. Your choices are endless, and it’s never too late.

When my son began his first full day of grade school, I found myself alone and searching for activities to keep myself busy. While I enjoyed long, peaceful walks and good romance nov-

els, I discovered a void: adult conversation and mental stimulation. After researching my options, I tested the waters at Spokane Community College.

I can remember the first blow to my “hip mom” ego when I entered room 215: English 101. I walked in the door and the room grew quiet. Apparently the students thought I was the teacher! Not for long, though, when the second blow to my rapidly deflating ego hit me as the instructor finally did enter the room: I thought she was a student! The instructors, however young or old, were inspiring, knowledgeable, and personable. Before I knew it, two years flew by, and I was receiving my diploma. My children fidgeted in the audience but clapped vigorously and cheered loudly when they heard their mom’s name called and watched her walk proudly across the stage. Little did they know they would be perfecting their supporting role, as my graduation ceremonies became a ritual. I received not only one, but two more diplomas beyond that before I entered into the full time workforce; my son was just entering high school.

The greatest memory I have of my children’s youth is being able to share knowledge with them. I was



able to participate in their lives, not only by being a parent at home before and after school, but by having the empathy necessary in understanding learning at new levels. We read together, quizzed each other, and celebrated each other’s academic successes.

It’s never too late! In fact, these years are the ones to take advantage of. Did I mention that I was a single parent throughout those years? Scholarships and grants are available to those who qualify. So what are you waiting for? What’s holding you back? Don’t let your child ask “How come I’m in school all day and you’re not?” Instead, start the morning with these words: “Let’s go! We don’t want to be late for school.”