

## Social and Human Services

### Graduate Profile



See a [Full Video Interview on YouTube](#)

Janice is a dedicated professional and a passionate advocate for addiction recovery. As a single mother, her journey has been one of resilience and transformation. After overcoming personal challenges, including struggles with addiction, time in jail, and the loss of her husband to an overdose, Janice committed herself to creating a better future—for both her family and those battling substance use disorders.

She earned her Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC-R) credential and graduated from Central Carolina Community College (CCCC). Within a year of completing her education, Janice began working as a counselor at a treatment center, where her dedication and expertise quickly led to a promotion. Now serving as a *Director for an Addiction Treatment Center in Lee County*, she continues to use her experience, knowledge, and passion to help individuals on

their path to recovery.

#### **Janice's Testimony:**

Pursuing my education was a transformative experience that changed my life in ways I could not have imagined. Before my academic journey, I worked a physically demanding job with little pay and no room to grow within the company. I did not believe I was worthy of much more due to my history of substance use and incarceration. Although I had achieved long-term recovery, my family's trust, and employment, I still had a criminal background that I felt prevented me from growing any further.

Still, I took a leap of faith, determined to make a difference in the lives of those who continue to struggle with substance use. Central Carolina Community College offered a program that would ultimately teach me how to do just that, led by instructors who mentored, motivated, and encouraged me to follow that dream. Through my coursework, I gained a deep understanding of treatment modalities, person-centered care, and the application of theoretical concepts in real-world settings. I gained all of this even through personal trials, including parenting, working a full-time job, losing a loved one to an overdose, and caregiving for an aging parent. Many days, I felt overwhelmed, but I persevered to reach my goals.

My academic achievements and hands-on experience assisted me in proving my worth not only to myself but to others. I was offered gainful employment with salary wages before graduation, something I never thought possible with my circumstances. I became a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor after attending a Quality Assurance meeting with the North Carolina Addiction Specialist Professional Practice Board. I discussed my academic and professional success despite my past mistakes. I have further excelled in my field of study and recently accepted a promotion as the Program Director of my facility.

*Imagine this:* an individual who, seven years ago, was in prison is now running a program that breaks barriers for others, all because I took a chance and put in the work to achieve my goals. Earning my degree from Central Carolina has opened doors I never fathomed possible and has greatly increased my quality of life. As the Program Director, I continue to apply my academic foundation. My education has empowered me professionally and financially while reinforcing my passion for helping others.