USL reaches out with classes in program for adult learners

ABBEVILLE — Janice Hardy of Abbeville went to college right after she graduated from high school in 1979. But two weeks before finals, she quit.

“It was a really stupid thing to do,” Hardy says some 12 years later.

But Hardy says that she never really let go of her dream of a college degree.

Today, 31-year-old Hardy is the mother of two, and the wife of one of Abbeville’s more prominent citizens, police chief Mike Hardy.

And she is enrolled at USL as an elementary education major.

“I wanted to go back, but I didn’t know how,” she says. “Then, one day, I got brave and applied for admission to USL. The school sent me a letter about adult orientation, and it was wonderful!”

Hardy says she expected a group of five or six people at the adult orientation session, but instead walked into a large roomful of people — all adults who, like herself, wanted to go to college.

Together, they learned about what to expect in registration and classes and got their questions answered.

“It was very personalized,” Hardy says. “It made me feel really good about my decision.”

Hardy is now finishing her second semester at USL.

She is attending part-time, to allow her to spend more time with her daughters, eight-year-old Tessa and two-year-old Allison.

But she says she plans to take more classes in future semesters, earn her degree and put it to work as a teacher.

Hardy will be on hand at information sessions on USL’s adult learner program on Monday, Dec. 9, at the Vermilion Parish Library in Abbeville, from noon to 1 p.m. and 6-7 p.m.

For more information, call USL at (318) 231-6553.

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