



# “An exciting new career”

**Donna Lee Harris**

**2013, Associate of Applied Business, Criminal Justice**

It isn't easy for a working mother to go back to school. When Donna Lee Harris discovered the extent to which the faculty and staff would support her at Brown Mackie College — Hopkinsville, she didn't hesitate to enroll. She was just 23 years old and had already served four years in the U.S. Army.

She set her sights on the Army at age 17 and served from 2005 to 2009. Communications became her area of expertise, and Donna rose to the rank of E-4 Specialist. “I was a communications specialist, responsible for operating and maintaining communications equipment, jamming systems, and Line of Sight Shelters to ensure we could communicate on secure lines,” Donna says.

Donna chose to study Criminal Justice, “simply because it has always intrigued me.” With an ultimate goal of one day working for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), she began her journey at Brown Mackie College — Hopkinsville. In 2013, Donna completed the program, graduating with an Associate of Applied Business degree in Criminal Justice. She works at the Department of Juvenile Justice in Paducah, Kentucky, with the title of Youth Worker I.

She summarizes her duties succinctly. “I supervise youth to maintain a safe environment, redirect inappropriate behavior, and teach them about certain life skills needed for society,” Donna says. She finds satisfaction in giving back to the community by providing delinquent youth with the opportunity to change their lives and succeed.

“Brown Mackie College — Hopkinsville gave me experiences that related back to local criminal justice professions,” Donna says. “I had opportunities to visit local and state offices to expand on my classroom knowledge.” Active during her studies, Donna served as treasurer for the Legal Eagles Club at the school. In addition, she volunteered time at a local animal shelter.

Now a step closer to achieving her ultimate goal, Donna is currently in a bachelor degree program in Criminal Justice. “My goal is to go on for my Master's degree and work as a psychoanalyst for the FBI,” she says.

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