

lif f r both my girls. When you're told you have a lear ing disability, people tell you you're not smart enough 10 do college. But I did it I showed them I could go to college and graduate with honors,"

But like many STCC students, her jour ey was not an ca! y one. When Winspcarc started al STCC in 2016, she wi\S a single mother of two children and a domestic violence survivor. She saw STCC as place that could tram, form her lif and create a pathway to a brighter future for her children.

Already tuking clarses, Winspeare moved in 10 an apartment in Springfeld, but she didn't have the money 10 fur ish it. One of ithburdtryfShclrrthtblsoaaeh and rented a truck 10 bring the items to Winspearc's apartment.

"I got her a microwave and a living room set," she said. "I bought linens for the liule girls' bunk bedc."

Winspearc said she was grateful for Williams' generosity.

"I couldn't believe it," Winspeare said, "I cried when I saw what she had done for me."

Williams an STCC alumna, said her only slipulation was 1ha1 Winspeare slay in college and graduate. The instructor told her: "If you don't have an education, you will not be able to provide a

good life for your children an time Wilstdaredslede to graduate. She wasn 1 sure

helped a student in need. Since coming 10 STCC in before was the would be able to continuc with her studies, but was encouraged not to give up by Williams and others

STCC offers a varic1y or support

I cryiccs to help first-generation college students, students or color and others who are struggling financially. Some tur to the Center for Access Services, which runs a food pantry and offers emergency housing options. Winspcare participated in TRIO Student Support Services (SSS), which helped her adjust to the college environment and prepared her for her transition to a four-year university. In the fall, she will start working toward a bachelor's degree in social work from Elms College in Chicopee. The STCC-Elms partnershipallows her to lake classes on the STCC campus and complete the program at an acriv Cf,

employment in social work, and I am confident she will be successful in her jour ey: •

Having ear ed her degree from STCC, Winspcarc is now looking forward to her next chapter. She will continue taking college classes while raising her three children - an infant son and her daughters ages 4 and 7.

"I have a small but grcu1 support system," she said.

Winspcarc's goal is 10 work at a courthouse as a victim's advocate for degreestible indence survivoritis np

"I went through a lot especially with the domestic violence," she said. "I want to help others and show them there's a way out IfI di b p1