

Without Bunni, I wouldn't have had the confidence to enroll at WITC.

That's a sentiment often repeated these days on the Superior campus about Bernelle "Bunni" Haslerud, student success assistant.

"[Bunni] was so bright and positive and made me feel powerful."

—WITC student
Darla Palmi

Haslerud died on January 9, 2012, following a brief but courageous battle with cancer. She was 59 years old.

Her death stunned colleagues and many students returning from semester break who hadn't yet heard she was sick.

Darla Palmi was directed to the Student Success Center when, at age 23, she decided to complete her GED.

"I studied with Bunni and I'd frequently stop in for motivation. I passed all

of my scores well above average, and I credit her greatly for this."

When Palmi enrolled in the barber/cosmetologist program this semester she hoped to bring the news to Haslerud.

"I was so sad to seek her out to share this and find she was gone. I don't believe I'd be where I am right now if not for Bunni."

Haslerud worked on the WITC-Superior campus for more than 25 years. She was hired in 1987 as office and technical support in Student Services. In 2005, she moved to the Student Success Center where she had more direct contact with students. ■



Memorial Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund has been established in memory of Haslerud and her daughter, Jessica B. Nelson, who died in 2009. The annual scholarship will be awarded to a student who has completed the GED/HSED within the last five years and is entering a program of his or her choice at WITC. Anyone who would like to contribute to the scholarship can make a designated gift to the WITC Foundation.

For more information about the WITC Foundation or starting a scholarship, visit witic.edu/foundation or call 800.243.9482.