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## **JOB LOSS LEFT MOTHER OF TWO WITH A MORTGAGE AND LITTLE SKILLS**

*On May 12, Nancy Presley received  
Bishop State's Green-Knight Technical Award of Excellence*



Two years ago, Nancy Michael Presley of Theodore was doing pretty well. She had a job in the construction trade and a manageable mortgage. But then the unthinkable happened. She was laid off due to job cuts.

“I found myself unemployed with two children, a mortgage and no education,” said Presley.

Today, Presley, a Drafting and Design Technology major, has an Associate in Applied Science degree from Bishop State Community College. In addition, she is the recipient of the college's highest technical award, the “Green-Knight Technical Award of Excellence.”

The award is presented during commencement to an outstanding graduate receiving a certificate in a technical program and has attained a minimum cumulative average of 3.5.

Presley, 42, is also one of two Bishop State students who made the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) All-Alabama Academic Team. She, along with 46 other students representing 25 ACCS colleges, was honored recently in Birmingham for her scholastic achievements and distinguished leadership.

Presley graduated from Bishop State on May 12. She was among the 331 candidates for degrees or certificates this year. The graduation ceremony took place at the Mobile Civic Center.

After being laid off, Presley said she visited the unemployment office and told the worker that she wanted to attend school but could not financially afford it. The worker, she said, told her

about programs at Bishop State that later led her to enroll in the Drafting and Design Technology program through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). WIA provides assistance to eligible candidates to attend school or get the training they need to be a qualified worker.

Since enrolling at Bishop State, Presley has found another job at a lawn equipment business. She was hired full time as a parts consultant while attending classes at Bishop State and has since been promoted to Service Advisor/Parts Consultant.

Presley said she plans to return to Bishop State in the fall to earn a second degree in Graphic Communications Technology. She said her goal is to design multifunctional furniture to assist the disabled.

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