

Krista Marryatt

2017 Gary Mason Achievement Award Winner

I was never a good student in high school. I struggled but my head wasn't completely into education or studying. I was more interested in socializing and meeting new friends than I was in going to class. For me at that point, it didn't matter. Education wasn't important even though I had been preached to my whole life that it is.

As time went on and I watched everybody I grew up with graduate and move on with their lives, it really affected me. I felt I would never amount to anything. I've had different jobs but nothing I really enjoyed doing. I had a hard time holding a job and eventually I gave up and went on financial assistance. I lost a lot of my get-up-and-go. I found the more years that passed, watching the same people I grew up with graduate from college and get houses along with a good job was very frustrating. I was stuck where I was. At least that's what I felt at the time. It made me want to get up and do something for myself after so long.

I started with education. I've matured a lot since high school, and have a better understanding of myself and the work that's involved with school learning. I've wanted to work with animals my whole life and I realized the only way I'm ever going to achieve that goal is if I got up and got an education. I checked out the Halifax Community Learning Network to look into in the GED and I have to say it is the best decision I could have made. The GED program gave me a chance to do what I want to do and be who I want to be. Not only did it give me that opportunity but it refreshed the knowledge in my brain from school that I thought I forgot. I also realized that I had learned a few things since leaving school! It gave me the ego boost I need to help me feel better about myself and where I am in life and the confidence to look forward to where I will be in the future. I don't want to be broke, living on assistance or doing some job I don't even really like for the rest of my life. I want to have a good job I truly enjoy, get off assistance, and make my own money. I want to be comfortable in my life, and not have to struggle.

After passing four sections of the GED, I decided to follow my dream of becoming a Veterinary Assistant. I applied for a program and now attend four days a week. Fridays are still GED day to work on my math skills. The Veterinary Assistant Program is hard but I enjoy it. We are studying medical terminology which is like learning another language. This time next year I should have my diploma and be a graduate of the Vet Assistant Program.

"The GED program finally gave me the tools I need to make my dreams come true. I took the first step and I'm finally moving towards where I want to be. I thank everyone that helped guide me through. The support is amazing." ~ Krista Marryatt

