We did it ... you! ... and so can you! KENTUCKY

Real stories from Kentucky GED® graduates





Denise Curry was initially ordered to attend GED® classes through drug court. "The learning center staff worked hands-on with me and had confidence in me long before I had it in myself. They believed in me when nobody else believed in me," Denise says. "When I earned my GED®, I smiled like I've never smiled before. I feel like I can do anything if I put my mind to it. I am now looking to further my education, get off of (assistance) and get a job. I want to become a drug counselor and share my knowledge with others who have struggled as I have."

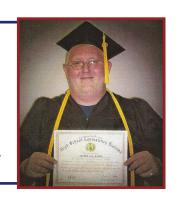
Bruce Mora says, "I was a good worker, but I was not being recommended for higher paying positions with more money because I did not have my diploma. I was disappointed in myself for not finishing school. With the help of the awesome staff at the adult education center, I finally have my GED® diploma, and for that, I am very thankful and very proud of my achievement. I plan on getting a higher education so I can pursue my next goal. I can finally see myself making the kind of money that will give the kind of life my family deserves. I encourage anyone to get your GED® diploma. It's never too late ... and it will give you the satisfaction that you didn't cheat yourself of a better life."





Barbara Gaines says, "I had always wanted to get my diploma. There were three people I know who are older than me that earned their GED®, and they inspired me." Barbara says that earning her GED® diploma "felt like a load had been lifted off my shoulders." Now, she says, "I feel like I have achieved something I worked hard to get. I am happy! I can now look at my diploma hanging up on the wall! I may apply to the school system for a job; they require a GED® or high school diploma."

Nicholas Banks was inspired to earn his GED® diploma because, he says, "I wanted to make a better life for me and my family; I knew I could not find a decent job without a diploma. My dream was to go to college so I could show my boys how important it is to get an education." Nicholas' dreams are coming true; he graduated from Hazard Community & Technical College with an associate degree in criminal justice, and he plans to transfer to a four-year institution to earn his bachelor's. "When I enrolled in college, my wife decided she would go back (to school) and get a degree in surgical technology," Nicholas says. "I am very proud of my accomplishments. I feel so much better about myself. If I can do this, I know anybody can."





Ashley Wallace says that she was inspired to begin working toward earning her GED® because, "I wanted to be able to provide a better life for me and my family." Ashley says that the day she earned her GED®, "The weight that's been on my shoulders for years over not having an education was lifted, and my feet were 10 feet off the ground. (I cried) tears of joy!" Ashley, who is now attending college, says, "My self-confidence has gone through the roof and I want more. My loved ones have seen me go through this and are now working on their GEDs® themselves."