



Adult Education Connection

(The following article was written by Linda Allen, Southwest Regional Adult Education Program Manager. Mrs. Allen conducted this interview just minutes before Janeta Anderson left Lebanon, Virginia to go home to South Carolina.)

Janeta Anderson has served her time, and she is going home to South Carolina. Tuesday, May 22, 2007, marked a milestone for Janeta as she left the Lebanon Community Correctional Center with the GED certificate she earned while incarcerated. Janeta began her incarceration in Danville, and while there, she enrolled in a GED preparation class. After seven months of preparation, she successfully passed four of the five official GED tests. When Janeta was transferred to the Lebanon Community Correctional Center in January 2007, she was informed that a GED preparation class was offered on-site. She immediately enrolled and began studying for the official GED math test, which she passed after approximately four months of preparation.

Janeta dropped out of high school at the age of sixteen but kept an educational goal in her sights. Before her incarceration, she enrolled in a GED class at Piedmont Community College with hopes of earning a CNA license. Janeta said when she began her studies, she was surprised by the amount of knowledge and skills she had. She thought to herself, "I'm not so stupid after all."

While at Lebanon Community Correctional Center, Janeta learned some important life skills, set realistic goals, and developed a "win attitude." She knew her release date and set a course to earn her GED certificate before that date arrived. The LCCC staff adjusted her work schedule so she could attend the GED preparation class on a regular basis. The math instruction helped Janeta learn the basic and intermediate skills she needed to pass the practice GED test and eventually the official test. Her work experience at Bonanza was also beneficial. She stated, "Just working at Bonanza made me feel so good."

"I was so excited when I passed the math test," Janeta said. "I couldn't stand it. I called my Momma. She is so proud of me. I jumped up and down; I was so excited. Mike O'Connor was a wonderful teacher. He made everyone in the class feel comfortable and gave me a lot of encouragement. I am blessed that I had Mike as a teacher. I won't forget him."

Janeta also wants to thank Jackie Bandy and Rita Perkins. She said, "I give a lot of credit to the staff at Lebanon Community Correctional Center for helping me stay focused on what is important. I appreciate everything they did for me. When I started to stray from the path they set for me, they were there to get me back on track. I can see what they were doing."

Janeta remembered her Dad always telling her that "a smile don't cost you a penny." With her recent accomplishments, Janeta is smiling a lot.

If you didn't finish high school, you have the opportunity for a second chance at earning your high school credential. Call Southwest Regional Adult Education at 889-5424 or 1-866-581-9935 to register for a free GED preparation class. Get on track with accomplishing your educational goals.