



Adult Education Connection
By Karen Gent

June Lester, of Tazewell, Virginia, would recommend getting a GED for anyone who didn't finish high school. You may have seen her on a billboard in the region promoting the fact that "education works." For June, getting a GED allowed her to continue with her education and experience success in the workplace.

June got married while she was in high school but had every intention to graduate. She attended school for three months after marriage and made the decision to drop out.

Several years passed as she enjoyed being a homemaker and becoming a mother. After being out of school for six years, she decided she wanted to complete her high school education so that she could continue with college. She planned to take the GED tests and prepared for them by purchasing a book and studying at home on her own. She then took the complete battery of five tests and passed!

After earning her GED certificate, June was ready to begin college. As a wife and mother of a three year old son, she enrolled at Southwest Virginia Community College and earned two associate degrees in accounting and business management, and she also acquired a certificate in bookkeeping. She notes that she had the full support of her husband while she was pursuing her education.

June relates that because she had a GED, there was nothing to hold her back. She was able to get the education she needed to become successful in the workplace. June has worked as a bookkeeper in a furniture store, a clerk in the commissary at Keen Mountain Correctional Center, and as a bookkeeper at Max Willard Accounting. She has been employed for more than eight years by Clinch Valley Physicians, Inc. in the medical records department where she currently holds the office of Release of Health Information.

If you desire this same type of success in the workplace but didn't finish high school, call Southwest Regional Adult Education at 889-5424 or 1-866-581-9935 to find out how you can earn your GED. To register for GED testing in the four-county region, contact Joyce Presley at the Buchanan County School Board Office at 935-4551, Cindy Stanley at the Dickenson County Career Center at 835-9384, Glenda Breeding at the Russell County School Board Office at 889-6507, or Toni Tester at the Tazewell County Career & Technology Center at 988-6037. You must register prior to the testing date.