



Mona Deel of Raven, Virginia is excited about her latest accomplishment- earning her GED®. After fourteen years since taking her first GED test, Mona's persistence paid off. She is an example of adult persistence, which is defined as adults staying in programs as long as they can, engaging in self-study when they must drop out of their programs, and returning to a program as soon as the demands of their lives allow.

Mona dropped out of high school in 1989 to get married. She then began to have children and raise a family. In 1993 and 1994, she took the GED tests but did not pass the complete battery. When one of her daughters developed a health problem, Mona lost interest in pursuing her GED.

Life continued for eleven years, and Mona returned to an adult education class in December 2005. Her children were in school, and she wanted to set a good example for them by attaining her high school credential. In those past eleven years, the GED Tests had changed; there was a new version of the GED Tests, which meant that Mona would have to retest in all five subject areas.

Mona tested again in late 2005 and early 2006 but couldn't pass all five tests and earn the points necessary to complete. This determined lady didn't give up. She returned to a class in autumn of 2007, focused on math, and even retested in some subjects she had already passed in order to increase her score. On December 20, 2007, Mona passed the math test, thus earning her GED.

Mona states that when she got the call at work saying she had passed, she cried. It had been a long journey for Mona, but she had finally fulfilled this important goal in her life.

One of Mona's personal aspirations was to earn her GED this school year and be able to graduate the same year as her oldest daughter. She did it! Mona says that she had a lot of cheerleaders along the way- her teacher Wanda Lawson, her family, her boss, and her friends at work. These people made her believe she could do it. Mona's persistence paid off!

Mona currently works part-time at the Cumberland Mountain Group Home as a residential tech, who helps people with disabilities perform daily life skills. She says that earning her GED has increased her potential in her workplace. Mona is looking forward to the spring graduation ceremony and is interested in attending college.

Did you or someone you know drop out of high school? Contact Southwest Regional Adult Education at 889-5424 or 1-866-581-9935 to find out how you can earn your GED. You could be the next GED success story!