



Adult Education Connection
By Karen Gent

Trientee Hess of Lebanon, Virginia, missed many days of school because of illness. She missed so many days that it was going to be hard to catch up. She then made the decision to quit high school.

After dropping out of school, Trientee says that she found many dead ends when searching for a job. Trientee expresses, "Without a high school diploma, you really can't do anything. It is very important to have a high school diploma or GED."

In September 2006, Trientee joined an adult GED preparation class. She began preparing to take the GED tests. Trientee had already passed the GED writing test while she was in the ISAEP program which prepares high school students for the GED, so she had four remaining tests to pass.

Even though Trientee had to miss nearly three months in the adult education program due to illness and surgery, she was still able to make progress by studying and completing assignments at home and attending class whenever she could. As her health improved, she was able to make it to class on a regular basis, and things began to happen. By studying and taking one subject test at a time, Trientee progressively passed each of the tests. She completed the program by earning her GED at the end of May, just in time to participate in the 2007 GED graduation ceremony.

Trientee had a goal of working in the nursing field some day. In March 2007, she got a job at Town and Country Adult Care Residents. While working there and attending the GED class, she also took a CNA course and passed the final exam earning her CNA license. Trientee made it a point to always make time for her school work and put it first on her list of priorities.

Trientee has set a goal for herself to become a nurse. She says, "It has been a dream of mine since I was a little girl." She states that earning her GED has made her realize that she can accomplish her goals. She says, "I can accomplish anything that I set my mind to. I was sick for three months, but I never gave up."

Trientee was excited and proud to walk across the stage to receive her GED credential. Now that she has earned her GED and CNA credentials, she intends to fulfill her dream of becoming a registered nurse. Trientee plans to attend Southwest Virginia Community College this fall.

It's never too late to fulfill your educational dreams. For those who didn't finish high school, that fulfillment begins with the GED. The GED is the stepping stone to further educational endeavors. Contact Southwest Regional Adult Education at 889-5424 or 1-866-581-9935 to enroll in a free class and prepare for your future.