

# Learning Changes Lives

Sometimes when you are young, you don't think about the consequences of not completing high school until it's too late. Once you have the desire to better yourself, the positives of learning become much more apparent. This is why I have decided to return to learning and how it is shaping a completely different path into my future.

I was one of those teenagers that didn't think about graduating high school. I had a job, making minimum wage and thought I knew better. As many people in my life pointed out, this would be a decision that I would regret.

For twenty years I worked hard labor jobs, always excelling, yet constantly feeling the need to learn more. These companies didn't care about my personal growth or well-being, they only cared about production. So, in the end it was never worth the physical and mental strain I put myself through. Although leaving never seemed feasible, I felt stuck and that only brought depression into my life.

After a long battle with addiction, I made the first significant decision of my life and got sober. It had its ups and downs, but the biggest thing it did was open my eyes to better myself. After four years, I decided it was time for another life change, I quit my job of 12 years and joined a GED class. With the help from some amazing people, I was then accepted into a Learning program through Working NB. Now I could put all my focus into my studies. This is why learning programs are so important. It gave me another chance at pursuing dreams that I thought were long gone.

I had the desire to succeed, and to prove to myself that I could do it. Because of this, I have now completed my GED and it has made me want to continue learning for the foreseeable future. I have always been fascinated by computers, they are constantly changing and growing. It seems like you can never get bored while working on computers. So, my next goal for the fall is to get accepted into NBCC, and to take an Information Technology: Software Development course. Knowing that I can learn about something I find so interesting doesn't feel like work.

The future is exciting, and the possibilities are endless. I'm looking forward to meeting and building new relationships with people I meet along the way. And share the story of how I've got where I am today. But one thing I know for sure is I will continue to learn. It's a great feeling knowing how to fix something or make something better. So, if you catch yourself saying "I'm not smart enough" or "It's too stressful", don't count yourself out, there are people and programs out there that only want the best for you and will go out

of their way to help. If I was able to do it, then anyone can do it, you just need to believe in yourself.

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