

"It was a major turning point in my life!"

A childhood accident started a chain of events and feelings that ended with Scotty Sparks being expelled from school.

Scotty now admits at the time he couldn't understand that his teachers were trying to help him.

Fortunately, he later found other people just as interested in helping him continue his education.

After visiting the adult learning center near his home, Scotty was amazed by the people he met.

"I got there and it was a much more supportive atmosphere than anything I had ever been in," Scotty said.

It also helped that Scotty had the desire to succeed.

He said it is natural for people to think they might not succeed when trying to earn their GED, but hopes others will try it as he did.

Scotty did earn his GED, and went on to enroll in college classes.

"There were opportunities that opened once I earned my GED," Scotty explained.

"It opened a whole new world to me."



"We're going to live better!"

Tonya Moore remembers feeling hopeless.

With a family to support and no high school diploma, it would have been easy to give in to those feelings.

Her life changed when someone told her about opportunities available at the local adult learning center.

Tonya decided she and her family deserved a better life.

She also wanted to set an example for her children.

"I'm doing this for us," she told her children. "We're going to live better. We're going to be okay."

With GED in hand, and now studying respiratory care at a community and technical college, Tonya has not only set a good example for her family, but for many others as well.

At a ceremony honoring recent GED completers, Tonya inspired the crowd as the featured speaker.

"One day, I was faced with the decision to do something about my own situation,"

Tonya told the audience.

Now, she is "a parent with a determination to succeed and make a difference in the lives of my children."



"It's about proving to yourself that you can do this!"

Robin Dalton had something in her life she wanted to change.

"I was the only one of our family who didn't get a high school diploma," she explained.

Robin helped raise her four brothers and felt like she didn't set a good example.

When she tried to convince them of the need to get an education, they answered with, "You didn't do it."

But Robin did do it.

Now working at a university, Robin describes her life as something she might have only imagined in a fairy tale.

She also can say she is the first in her family to have earned a college degree, turning the loss of a factory job into an opportunity.

Completing her GED was the start of this rewarding new life for Robin.

Robin is proud she held on to the things she wanted to accomplish, even though there were people who didn't support her dreams.

"A lot of the time, it's more about proving to yourself that you can do this," Robin said.

"I fixed it. I did it over."



What do each of these individuals have in common?

- An event in their life prevented them from finishing high school.
- They have earned their GED.
- They are currently enrolled in college or have graduated from college.

If you left school before earning a high school diploma, you have the opportunity to earn your GED and become enrolled in a community or technical college or a university.

Adult Education Centers, located in each Kentucky County, can assist you in preparing for the GED test. These centers provide educational instruction and assistance to guide you in taking the GED exam. Call toll free 1-800-928-7323 or visit the Web at www.gohigherky.org for location and information.

GET YOUR GED - YOU CAN DO IT!

Earning your GED can be your ticket to a better life! A GED diploma can be used just like a high school diploma. The GED can help you get a better job or just feel better about yourself!

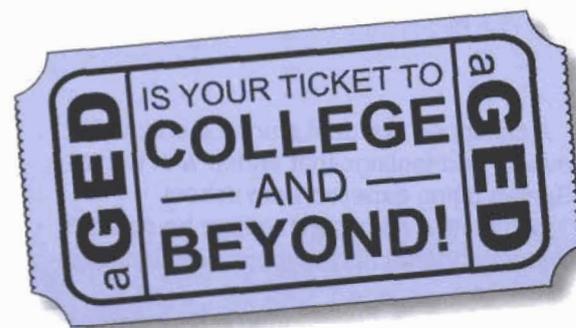
Your GED can be your ticket to a college education and beyond.

After earning your GED, trained college access counselors are available to assist you with:

- College admissions process
- Federal student aid, both grants and loans

You can arrange to meet with a college access counselor from the Commonwealth Educational Opportunity Center in your area by calling 1-800-333-3621.

They will provide you with information about different types of training, educational programs and financial assistance available. The counselor will assist you with all paperwork required to help you enroll in college and to locate a source of funding to assist in paying for your education. **ALL SERVICES ARE FREE!**



You can live a better life!

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