

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

LaShonda Easter | Virginia



Adult education gave LaShonda hope. As a teenage mother, LaShonda struggled to cope with schooling, motherhood, and financial challenges at an early age. Determined to graduate high school, she enlisted the help of her parents and enrolled in night school while keeping multiple jobs that rarely paid livable wages. After graduation, she set her sights on attending college, but she states, “I worked at it but I could not take on a full-time course at the time, and ultimately had to put college on hold and focus on working until my kids were grown.”

However, her job became one of the early casualties of the COVID-19 pandemic, and she reluctantly filed for unemployment. It was during this time that she decided to go back to college, after a 27-year absence. Always realistic and practical in her approach, LaShonda sought help to gain adequate proficiency in core academic areas prior to sitting for the placement test by enrolling in Southside Programs for Adult Continuing Education (SPACE). As a student she was always the first to come to class, always focused, and always inquisitive and unrelenting with her questions. She was never satisfied with her grades unless she scored the maximum grade possible.

Today LaShonda has successfully earned the Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA) certification and completed the Pharmacy Tech program with the intention to earn the applicable credential. Additionally, LaShonda maintains a steady presence on the President’s List with a 3.8 GPA in her Associate Degree program in Administrative Support Technology. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive