

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Marisol Soto | New Hampshire



Adult education enabled Marisol to follow her lifelong dream of completing her education. Marisol stopped studying when she got pregnant at 17-years-old; her parents refused to allow her to go back to school. Life got in the way, but the pandemic provided her with an opportunity to finish her education. When everything shut down, Marisol began attending virtual classes to complete her GED®.

At 50-years-old, Marisol was out of practice. There were nights she cried because she did not understand the assignments, particularly math, but she was motivated to do something for herself instead of just for her kids. Although she loved remote learning, she adapted well to transitioning back to in-person classes despite being considerably older than the other students. She said, "I acted like their mother in class, but they adored me; they called me 'mom!'"

After all of her hard work, Marisol earned her equivalency diploma through My Turn, Inc. Attending her ceremony and wearing a cap and gown felt surreal to her. Feeling accomplishment from her diploma was nothing compared to seeing her granddaughter light up at the graduation. Marisol said, "When I put on the hat, she made me cry. She said, 'Grandma, you look so good. I am so proud of you!'"

Today, Marisol's dream is to continue on to college and become a paralegal. Marisol begins her higher education journey at Nashua Community College this fall. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive