

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Patty Rogers | Arkansas



Adult education gave Patty the resources she needed to achieve her life-long goal of receiving her diploma. Born during the post-depression era in west Texas, Patty's biological parents were unable to cultivate a love for school and learning, as they worked hard to provide her with the basics of life. As small children, Patty and her brother were eventually adopted by a family who sent them to school, and Patty delighted in learning. However, in high school life necessitated that she drop out.

Patty spent her adult years engaged in several jobs as she raised children. She owned several personal businesses including an automotive business, worked for a newspaper, engaged in poultry farming, drove an 18-wheeler truck across the country, and managed \$4 million in inventory for a hospital.

Even still, Patty held her dream of receiving her high school diploma closely and determined to someday make it a reality. Patty says, "To reach out and acquire, to overcome and obtain the diploma was a very deep need in my life." When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, Patty felt now was the time to finish what she had left behind over 58 years ago, and she enrolled in an adult education program at Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC).

Today, Patty has completed her GED® and in 2022 was recognized by NWACC's Honor Society. She has been hired as an Administrative Assistant to the Director for NWACC's Department of Communication and Arts. She is also enrolled in classes and is excited to see where her new academic journey will take her. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive