Adult education gave Isabella the acceptance she needed to find her own niche and move forward academically. In regular high school classes, Isabella found herself harassed and bullied. Eventually this learning environment discouraged her so much that she decided to find an alternate path to her high school diploma. It was then that Isabella decided to enroll in adult education classes.

At Chattanooga Technical College (CTC), Isabella found a class to guide her through the GED® process. More importantly to her, she found a place to belong. She states, “I met people that really restored my faith in humanity, people who were kind and talked to you like you were an actual person.” In this close-knit community, Isabella thrived. She pursued her GED®, but at the same time was able to work on college classes, similar to dual enrollment in high school. As one of the first participants in the Accelerating College Education (ACE) Program, Isabella chose Introduction to Electrical Engineering Technology as her first dual GED® course in hopes of nurturing her love for all things technology.

Today, Isabella feels more confident and motivated to meet new people, which was a benefit of adult education she had not anticipated at the outset. Her immediate goals include using her newfound electrical engineering knowledge to retrofit a vintage tube television to realize in order to allow it to reach its full picture-quality potential for her retro gaming consoles. She also wishes to begin honing her knowledge of electrical engineering further with the aim of becoming a video essayist who can help others learn along the way.