GRADUATION 2021

Crystal Bottrell – Manistee Lab

Graduation is especially important to me and has been for so many years. To be honest, I have always been embarrassed and ashamed of myself for not graduating or walking with my class back in 2004. It has been a long 17 years! It was time to do what I needed to do- to finally graduate. It has been way overdue!

I have always talked over the years about how I wanted to finish school. But it was always talk and no action. Something always seemed to keep me "too busy" to complete something that was and is so very important to me. Being "too busy" always consisted of putting other things and others' needs and wants ahead of my own. It always just seemed like the right and easier thing to do at that given time. I was always pushing my priorities and goals to the side for something or someone else. I would always say that it could be done later on. After time had gone by it had just started becoming easier to push it off to the side and ignore it than it was to just face it and get it done. So, I just never did it; not until now that is!

It took a lot of hard work, dedication, self-love, encouragement, many hours and many months of studying, staying focused, and staying on track. I will not lie, there were a couple times I wanted to take the easy way out and just give up like I did in the past because things were frustrating, and I became discouraged and overwhelmed feeling. Although feeling that way I pushed through it. I could not let those things define me. I could not let those things hold me down or hold me back anymore, so I fought hard and continued on.

I can finally say that I am no longer embarrassed or ashamed of myself for not completing high school because I have finally finished! I finally did it after all these years that have passed! I can finally say that I am proud of myself for sticking to it and getting it done.

There are so many people to thank for helping me with this whole process. My family, my friends, and my teacher! All the love and encouragement from them helped me so very much along the way. Without the help of all of them pushing me to go with it and get it done, it may have been a little harder for me to complete everything. But I was so incredibly determined to crush this and that is just what I did!

I hope everyone I know is as proud of me as I am of myself! Here is to 2021, the year of success, setting goals, and completing each and every one of them! Thank you!