

I am proud to be a GED Graduate!

Mary Scarbrough – Benzie Lab @ BACN

My name is Mary Scarbrough. I would like to thank my Family, Friends, my teacher Sue, and everyone for making this possible.

Because of circumstances beyond my control at the time, I did not finish High School. One of my biggest regrets, because education is so important!

My life got busy getting married, having, and raising four children, and working full time. There was just no time for me to get my GED. After a while, the dream of finishing school seemed so far away.

One day I was sitting around the table with my husband and some friends. We were talking about New Year Resolutions, and when it was my turn, I said I do not like making resolutions because I never follow through with them, but I have always wanted to finish school and get my GED. And they all looked at me and said, "Do It!" That is how my GED journey began!

I started inquiring how to go about getting my GED? Where to go? What to expect? And after all these years can I do it? My heart said yes, but my head had doubts. A lot has changed since I was in school.

I talked to a friend Johnna that was a GED graduate earlier in the year. She was extremely helpful and encouraging. She told me she went through BACN, and gave me Sue's phone number. She told me the BACN lab people were great to work with and told me I could do it. I gave myself one year to do it!

I talked to my Manager at Crystal Mountain, where I was working, about it, and he allowed me to leave two hours during my shift a month to meet with Sue and work on my schooling at the Michigan Works/Benzie Lab Alternative site at the Thompsonville Library.

Then in the spring of 2020 a lot started happening. The Pandemic hit, so I could only work on my schooling virtually at home. Then my 78-year-old mother fell and broke her shoulder, and then the day after that I was terminated from Crystal Mountain after 19.5 years of employment. With everything going on it was hard to find time to study, but I was determined to keep going and get my GED. So, every moment between helping my mom and everything else, I would study my schooling. I was surprised at what I remembered, and even much so, what I learned!

On October 27, 2020, 1 year & 4 days later I made it! I took my final GED test and passed!! And so have you all who are graduating today...you have made it! I feel proud of myself for taking the risk to do it, and all of you should be so proud of yourselves too!!!
God Bless.