

Alumni Spotlight

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Darlene Johnson

Class of 2024



Darlene Johnson successfully completed the Fiber Optic Technician (FOT) Program within CVCC's Adult Diploma Program in February 2024, marking a significant achievement. Having left high school in the 9th grade, Darlene faced self-doubt and embarrassment when job opportunities at the hospital eluded her due to the absence of a high school diploma. Turning to online searches for GED options led her to CVCC, where the Adult Diploma Program on campus stood out for offering a diploma along with specialized trade education.

Terri Lynn Brosseau, Adult Education Director, played a pivotal role in Darlene's journey, offering unwavering patience and support. Despite moments of wanting to give up, she thanks CVCC for opening doors that were once closed to her. From facing job rejections to now receiving interview offers, she is experiencing a transformative shift.

With a background in the medical field since the age of 18, Darlene unexpectedly developed a passion for FOT during the program and is currently exploring apprenticeship opportunities through interviews. Darlene expresses gratitude for Mr. Franko, the FOT instructor, highlighting his exceptional teaching skills and motivation. Despite her initial challenges with focus and study habits, Jimmy took the time to guide Darlene, instilling confidence and dispelling her fears.

"I actually failed the first FOT exam by a few points. On my second attempt, I exceeded the necessary score by several points! I just needed to believe in myself. I'll never forget Mr. Franko telling me, 'I see it in you. You're not giving up. You were made for this.' Talk about encouragement!" -Darlene Johnson

For those pursuing their GED or adult diploma, Darlene encourages perseverance, emphasizing that her own journey took several years. She stresses the importance of not getting discouraged and prioritizing self-worth.

Congratulations once again to Darlene! May her future endeavors be filled with success and satisfaction. CVCC proudly shares in the joy of her accomplishments, knowing that the best is yet to come.

Written By: Makayla Robertson, CVCC Media Specialist

