

Fatima Smartt Class of 2024



A big congratulations to Fatima (Fae) Smartt, who recently earned her diploma through CVCC's Adult Diploma Program after completing the Fiber Optics Technician (FOT) Program! Fatima's journey to success was not without its challenges. As a Digital Design student at CVCC, she excelled in her craft, even earning awards for her talent. She had strong relationships with CVCC instructors, staff, and classmates, but personal struggles impacted her ability to attend classes consistently at both CVCC and her home school. "I missed a lot of school due to depression and had to attend Saturday detention to make up for the absences," she explained. Due to attendance issues and credit deficiencies, Fatima was given the option by her home school to complete her diploma through an alternative program working from home. However, she knew that working in isolation would not be the right fit for her. Because of the trust and relationships she had built with CVCC staff—especially Ms. Munro (Digital Design Instructor), Mr. Averre (Internal Transition Coordinator), and Ms. Bodnar (External Transition Coordinator)—she was open to exploring another option.

Ms. Bodnar encouraged Fatima to enroll in the Adult Diploma Program at CVCC, a decision that ultimately changed the course of Fatima's life. "I can't thank Ms. Bodnar enough. The Adult Education programs are such a great resource for people who didn't graduate on time. I'm so thankful CVCC offers this opportunity, and I'm especially grateful to Ms. Bodnar for introducing me to this path."

With the guidance and expertise of Terri Lynn Brosseau, Adult Education Director, Fatima enrolled in the Fiber Optics Technician (FOT) program. It was a turning point that provided Fatima with not only an education but also the confidence to move forward. After facing a period of personal struggles, Fatima reached a moment of clarity: "I realized I needed to help myself. I didn't want to feel stuck anymore—I wanted to take action and make a change."

Now, with her diploma in hand, Fatima is more confident than ever in her abilities. She knows that with focus and hard work, she can achieve anything. Next, she plans to pursue higher education, specifically in business. Fatima's advice for others considering the Adult Diploma Program is simple: "Keep pushing, even when it's tough. It's challenging, but it's worth it, and time will pass faster than you expect." Congratulations again, Fatima, on your incredible achievement! Your perseverance is an inspiration!

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