



Alumni Spotlight

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Marie Yoder

Class of 2024



Raised in an Amish community, Marie Yoder always dreamed of a life where she could "move up, climb the ladder, and build something" for herself. At 21, she made the courageous decision to step beyond the only world she had known, driven by a desire for new opportunities. Juggling two jobs while attending school, Marie's perseverance and hard work shone through. She reflects, "I worked hard, and I'm really proud of myself for everything I've achieved."

Initially considering a GED, Marie discovered the Adult Diploma Program (ADP) at CVCC through Sylvan Learning and immediately knew it was the right fit. "The fact that the program was free made it a no-brainer for me," she shared. Enrolling at CVCC proved to be a life-changing decision in ways she never expected.

Earning her adult diploma has ignited a new sense of motivation and confidence in Marie. "Now that I have my adult diploma, it feels real! I'm more driven than ever to keep going," she shares. What began as a practical decision to study graphic design—simply because the Graphic Design for Print and Web Production seemed like the best fit when it came to choosing a program—quickly turned into an unexpected passion. "A few years ago, I never would have considered myself a graphic designer, but here I am, and I love it."

Marie attributes much of her success to the support of her CVCC instructor, whose engaging teaching style made learning programs like Illustrator and Photoshop both accessible and exciting. "My instructor made Illustrator easy to grasp, and Photoshop was so interesting. I can't wait to keep leaning and growing in this field," she says.

Beyond graphic design, Marie enjoys reading, arts and crafts, and DIY projects—creative hobbies that align with her introverted nature. She encourages future ADP students to stay persistent, reassuring them that the effort is worth it. "It may feel tough at times, but don't give up. The feeling at the end makes it all worthwhile. I'm not exactly where I want to be yet, but this is a strong start."

Marie Yoder's journey is a testament to perseverance, and she's just getting started on what promises to be an exciting career in graphic design. CVCC is so proud of you, Marie!

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