

## Monica Jones Class of 2025



Monica Jones proudly earned her adult diploma after successfully completing CVCC's Adult Education Fiber Optic Technician (FOT) Program! Her journey was not easy—she had pursued her GED multiple times, only to miss passing by a single point. When she learned about CVCC's Adult Diploma Program, which offered both an adult diploma and an industry-recognized credential at no cost, she knew it was an opportunity she couldn't pass up. Monica left school when she became pregnant, and as a mother of eight, her life has been incredibly busy. Seeing some of her children graduate and receive their diplomas motivated her to pursue her own.

Initially drawn to the program because of its short 40-hour completion time, Monica quickly discovered a passion for the fiber optics field. Now, she's excited to apply for fiber optics jobs and begin her new career. Her journey wasn't without challenges. When she first took the required WorkKeys test for enrollment, she didn't pass and felt discouraged. However, thanks to the encouragement of Theresa Antal, Adult Education Administrative Assistant, Monica regained confidence. With tutoring and determination, she retested—and passed!

"The instructor, Jimmy Franko, was incredible. He was so encouraging and supportive. There were moments in class when I struggled—like when we were connecting fibers—and I'd say, 'I can't do this.' But he would stop everything and walk us through each step, as many times as needed, until we got it. He even let me take materials home to practice splitting cords! And a bonus—he always brought snacks for us. Thanks, Mr. Franko!"

The moment Monica received the call that her diploma was ready was unforgettable. "I was at the grocery store with my kids when I saw Theresa's name pop up on my phone. I immediately started screaming with excitement! My kids and I were running around high-fiving each other in the store. It was the best feeling."

Monica is now a passionate advocate for CVCC's Adult Diploma Program. "I'm telling everyone I know about CVCC—I even shared my amazing experience with my dentist the other day! I earned both my diploma and a trade credential, the evening classes fit my schedule, and the support and tutoring made all the difference. It's an incredible opportunity." Congratulations, Monica! Your dedication and success are truly inspiring.

Written By: Makayla Robertson, CVCC Media Specialist