



Shaneka Stewart

GED Online Graduate – June 2009
Adult and Community Education

Shaneka Stewart is a 21 year-old Tampa native. She attended Philip Shore Elementary, Memorial Middle and Middleton High School until her senior year. She left school in 2006, and had a very busy year, having two babies (one at the beginning of 2006 and one at the end) who are now 2 and 3 years old.

Shaneka always knew that she wanted to be a pharmacist. She loves math and did well in that subject in school. When she took the TABE test to enter her GED program, she scored highest in math, but the reading was a little more challenging. However, after approximately 9 months in the program, working on her own whenever she could find time for herself, she managed to take and pass the whole test (all the subjects) with a high enough score to be able to participate in the Adult and Community Education graduation 2009 that was held in the auditorium at the State Fairgrounds.

Shaneka has already applied to HCC – she knows that she will need to take 3 years of courses there, then onto USF for four years to meet the requirements to become a pharmacist. Meanwhile, she is working lots and lots of hours at Busch Gardens, where she has been employed for 3 years, and where she first found out about the Online GED program that ACE offers through a company newsletter.

Shaneka says that the program worked for her because her life is so busy with family and job that she could go online, work at her own speed, and if something just couldn't get done in one day, she could finish it the next. She feels that the Online GED instructor (Diane Rodriguez) was incredibly supportive, even though they rarely met in person. "Each time I took and passed a test, Ms. Rodriguez would call or email me and tell me how great I was doing. She was also the person who called me when my scores came in and told me I passed!"

When asked about why she went back to school, Shaneka said simply, "My kids. I wanted to better myself for them."