

Good Afternoon! Thank you all for coming!

In 2006, I began to work at AHRC and I was nervous because I was unfamiliar with the work in this field.

Thankfully, there were people to encourage me and said “You can do it!”

Every day I became more confident in my job and new skills.

I was able to improve my English and grow in my knowledge of developmental disability.

Since then many opportunities were presented to me and I felt competent to take them.

In 2008, the opportunity of entering the Reaching Up program was offered and I took it.

Although I was out of school for 17 years, I was determined to get my degree, better my English and eventually improve my work with my individuals.

Along with this opportunity, Jane Erb, Arleen Peters were the facilitators that pushed me to apply and register at Nassau Community College and for that I am grateful.

I would to thank the people that have supported me throughout this journey: Jason Persan, Christine Russel and my advisor that helped me every semester to register Diane Martin.

A special thank you to my family for their patience and my sister that was by my side in every class.

Reflecting on this achievement, I am grateful for the individuals with whom I work with because if not for them, I wouldn't have been in this field and been given the opportunity to earn my degree in Disability Studies.

Ultimately, by bettering myself I better the lives of the people around me.