

Good Afternoon!! Thank you all for being here today!!

First of I would like to thank God allowing me to be here with you all and for helping me with this achievement.

I began working at AHRC in April in 2006 and I started as Habilitation Service Assistant.

In this position I was able to learn and improve my skills in this field of developmental disability.

I really enjoyed working with the individuals because they were an inspiration to me because every day they were overcoming obstacles.

When I was offered to start the Reaching Up Program I was so thankful to be working in a company that wants their employees to continue their education.

I've always wanted to earn a degree and I was willing to put in the work to take this opportunity.

In completing this goal, I would be able to improve my English, inspire my kids and better serve my individuals.

When I was just starting the Reaching Up program, I was going through a tough time.

I was involved in a damaging car accident, going through a divorce and needed someone to watch my kids while I was in night school.

All these issues were obstacles that I had to overcome to push forward and continue what I set out to do.

Throughout this journey I've had people around me helping me and constantly encouraging me such as; Jane Erb, Marlene Garavito, she saw the potential in me and told me to apply, also Jason Persan, Christine Russel, my sister Gloria for being my study buddy, and a big thank you to Diane Martin for helping me pick my classes every semester.

I am so thankful for all these people that have been there for me but I am especially thankful for my family and my children for all of their love and support through everything!

Anything in life that is worth having is worth putting in the effort.

I believe this to be true in my life because there were challenges I had to overcome in order to make it this far in my education.

Although I still need more to do I feel confident that I can achieve these goals because of my amazing support system and the grace of God. Thank you!!