

Pursuit of Higher Learning

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I started my education experience since elementary school; I graduated from Elementary School. From there I went onto high school in Thunder Bay at Saint Patrick's High School. I attended long enough to attain 7 credits and dropped out after having my son; he was born in 1992, I was 17 years old. I went on to have two more children; two daughters. Through the years I worked either part time or full time and raised my family, I attempted to complete my high school a couple times through the years. Raising and looking after my children came first. I married my husband Anthony in 2002; we are a combined family with 8 children, 4 at home and four on their own. Some have graduated from high school, others are on their way and some are struggling to complete and attain their high school diploma. But the goal is in their mind and I think that is wonderful.

Now that I am in my thirties and my children are teenagers, obtaining an education is very important; more than ever. With some failed attempts in the past, I don't look at how I failed but what I could learn from my attempts. I know that I can do it, prioritizing my priorities and organizing my schedule is important. Making time for my family and my husband and finding the balance between family, school and work is working so far. Fine-tuning these categories is even more important. I can do well. This is what I learned at college a couple of years ago. What I learned was that studying a bit here and there works really well, handing in and completing your work is vital and should be done at your earliest convenience.

My family is my influence and my help. Some of my children sit and help me with my math, especially my husband, he is my biggest help and supporter; mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually as well, we'll sit and pray at times when I am struggling.

I was astonished and uplifted after reading Albert Einstein's experience in school. After reading his story in

"Academically Einstein was less than mediocre. One teacher told him he would "never amount to anything". Eventually, He was asked to leave school. He failed an admissions exam to Zurich Polytech School, was required to return to high school for another year. On graduating Zurich he was rejected for an assistantship because no teacher would give him a recommendation. If Einstein had accepted his teachers assessment of his intelligence, he would undoubtedly have lost the motivation to pursue his studies, and the world would be unimaginably poorer."¹

I was encouraged by this story about Einstein because through his many attempts he persevered and accomplished a lot. He didn't give up, even though his mentors; the professors who taught him didn't believe in him. In the same way I feel I have struggled along my education path. I have no plan to give up; I want to keep on going. I want to be a role model for my children and grandchildren. I do want to accomplish something great. It may not be a theory like Einstein's but it will be amazing in my own view. I look forward to the future and all that education and learning have to offer me.

To know that you have what it takes to succeed' and that it has always been there is refreshing to me. I look forward to my future accomplishments.

¹ Vincent Ryan Ruggiero, *Becoming A Critical Thinker, A Master Student Text, Sixth Edition*, [United States of America: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 23456789-EB-09 08], 15.