Student Spotlight: Tyrone Earns GED®

Congratulations to Greensboro student Tyrone who earned his GED® in September! His journey began on a Sunday in January 2014, when he was listening to church music on his radio. Tyrone heard an advertisement for free literacy tutoring. He was going through a difficult time in his life and was determined to earn his GED® in order to have more opportunities. He listened carefully to the radio and even went back twice to make sure he wrote the phone number down correctly. He called the Reading Connections office and scheduled an appointment, and from there began the next chapter of his story.

Since 2014, Tyrone has studied for hundreds of hours. He attended classes at both GTCC and Reading Connections, and has also met with an individual tutor. He has modeled perseverance, determination, and courage. He has had great teammates along the way who have encouraged him, and one person who has been instrumental in his journey has been his math tutor, Wade Britt.

Wade has been working with Tyrone since October 2014. Tyrone describes him as sharp and dedicated. If Tyrone arrived to tutoring early, he cleaned the white board and would start reviewing his notes so they could jump right into math. Tyrone is also thankful for his other instructors and supporters, including Jenny ElNajjar, Ms. Ruth Bowden at GTCC, and Mr. Anthony Banks at GTCC. They have all been outstanding and are very patient and knowledgeable.

As a Reading Connections graduate, Tyrone has some words of wisdom to share. He encourages students to never give up on their dreams. He said some days will feel like a struggle, but take a deep breath and return to studying. He asks that tutors be patient, get to know their students, and have fun in the classroom. Additionally, he said “It’s not going to be easy. It can be a fun learning experience if you give it your all. Don’t let your education hold you hostage.”

Tyrone has truly been a resilient and persistent student. He was supposed to graduate high school in 1984. He said graduating and walking across the stage in a cap and gown is one of the greatest joys a person can have. We are all so incredibly proud of Tyrone, and excited that he will be able to experience the joy that he missed out on when he walks across the stage at GTCC. Tyrone has unlocked an immense number of opportunities, and we know he has what it takes to succeed in all of his future endeavors.

*Kiara Coulman, ABE Coordinator*