Earning a High School Equivalency Diploma Opens Doors

Many people don't know that passed Regents exams count toward the High School Equivalency (HSE) Diploma. This was a very pleasant surprise for Princess. When she came to the WAGE Center last year, she had been going to class and working on all subjects. However, when she says when she met her tutor, Bill, they confirmed that, "I got credit for Regents I passed," leaving only one subject for which to study.

Working with Bill, Princess says, "It was just me and him working one-on-one." She explains that being in a previous larger class environment made progress slower because, "it was harder to get help." In addition, the credit for her high school work increased her confidence to pass the relatively new TASC test offered in New York state.

In less than a year, she was ready to take the test. So, in September 2019, she took and passed the remaining subject to qualify for her HSE Diploma. Now, Princess feels that she will "definitely find more jobs" due to the diploma. Thinking about her future, she says that she wants to "see my way around—see what best fits me." She is currently "doing home care," a job she was referred to by a friend in February of this year.

Princess' immediate plans include taking a class "to help me boost up my computer skills...how to do stuff like cut and paste..." She also says, "I want to learn culinary and play the piano and travel." While exploring new career opportunities, she is dreaming of all the places she'd like to see. She says, "I would want to go to Paris - actually, I would go to China. It looks fascinating."

For now, Princess is checking into the next educational opportunity, whether it be a computer class, a culinary course or something else that would expand her skills and give her ideas for her future career path. She is also working and accumulating experience in her home care job.

One thing Princess is sure of: The educational tutoring and advice she received from Bill at the WAGE Center helped the process of getting her HSE diploma proceed much more quickly and easily. While she is continuing her career development and education, she is using the resources at the WAGE Center to explore ideas for growth. But, with her recent educational achievement the door to opportunity has opened a little wider.