



The Story of Juanita Ward

Juanita Ward

I worked hard for several decades to raise my children and put three of them through college. Then, they told me that it was my turn. After more than twenty-five years of being out of school and growing up without technology, the placement tests given during new student orientation were a big challenge. However, I survived, and in the years to follow, I learned a lot about those machines called computers.

Two instructors were very influential during my time at The University of Akron. Mrs. Renee Croskey taught many of my technology courses, and I subsequently applied that knowledge later in my college career. Mrs. Becky McDonald

taught my first class at the University—Basic Writing—in Carroll Hall. Before coming here, I operated my own custom cake business, but life had not been easy. Basic Writing became therapeutic for me. Through the free writes and compositions I wrote during that course, my life began to turn around, and I gained the confidence to continue my education.

Throughout my years as a student, I attended class every day, got to know my instructors, utilized the tutoring areas, and worked very hard. I graduated with two associate and one bachelor's degree while maintaining a 3.8 grade point average.