

READ Saskatoon Rigby-Wilcox Adult Learner Award

Jeri-lynn Brown

Well, on the subject of Jeri-lynn Brown, let me just say that she is one special lady.

She has challenged how I thought a person must learn. When I first met her, I thought, "I will find out what she doesn't know, and I will teach it to her". I just assumed that during some important periods in class back in school, she was absent, whether in mind or body. I have learned from her that learning is very, very individual, and what we succeed at or struggle with does not seem to follow any pattern or logic, and can not be "fixed". She has taught me what the famous philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau said, "What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?"



Shortly after meeting Jeri-lynn, I realized that she was determined to do SOMETHing about her situation. She had trouble reading books to her son, and often got newsletters and notices from her son's school that she couldn't understand. Jeri-lynn is always early for our meetings and always lets me know if plans have changed and she can't make it. She shows me what true commitment is.

To say I am proud of Jeri-lynn would be an understatement. There are things that, when I met her 3 years ago, she said she just couldn't do. In her mind, it wasn't even a possibility. She just figured this was who she was. Over time, I think she must have thought that it was at least worth trying. She took a GED course, and almost passed! I must note that she showed up at class with her baby who she had delivered just four days before, and never missed a class.

She is now off welfare and attending SIAST, taking Adult Basic Education. Not surprisingly, she is the best student in her class. I think Jeri-lynn has surprised herself with all that she is able to do. As she gains more confidence and skills, I think she sees more options for her after she is done her schooling. She has taught me the value of persistence and I see nothing but good things in her future.

Janina Chamberlain,
volunteer literacy tutor,
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