

Woman returns to get degree after job lay-off

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PHILADELPHIA—Targete Life identified the needed class guidance after being laid off from her job as a mortgage company advisor back in January 2008.

On when a friend suggest led the fun to Okasuk? Philadelphia, Life chose to say "yes" and it, granted she made the right choice.

Life had last attended Rowan University in 1995, leading after earning all credits to earn to her young children. The 25-year-old life, Laurel, couldn't get her mind off the prospect of returning to college, but the Okasuk? Philadelphia's support was of course.

"The help is here," she said, "I would have to take the initiative. The school is going to get you started on your way."

Life now admits Thomas Edison State College, taking online classes with a target graduation date of June 2010. Upon graduation, she'll have to either continue a bachelor's education, perhaps after working for an in-house of higher education primary wage. Life expects to be the biological Okasuk? contributor.

Since Okasuk? Philadelphia opened its doors in the Gallery Mall in 2008, more than 400 adults have been enrolled in college, and 10 have graduated with their degrees. Another 1,200 people are preparing to enroll in college.

Not only do several thousand students attend Okasuk? Philadelphia in regional centers in 20 satellite locations throughout the city.

Okasuk? Philadelphia now has four centers in Center City, North Philadelphia, and West Philadelphia and Germantown. It also provides college advising and success centers at CCHA Center, Rittenbach Center in Philadelphia, and at Catholic Social Center, Woodland Family Center Center. The new locations help the Okasuk? Philadelphia services help the neighborhoods and make them more accessible to residents.

Okasuk? Philadelphia was founded in 2005 in response to the shortage of adults with college degrees in the region's workforce. At the time, more than 60,000 Philadelphia residents had some college credits but no degree. Statistics show that getting a college degree helps in the job opportunities and about 1 million more in wages over a lifetime career.

In 2008, Okasuk? Philadelphia began offering adult college access and success centers, which guide prospective adult learners through the registration process, to graduation with a two- or four-year college degree.

Fifteen colleges and universities participate in the Okasuk? Philadelphia initiative. They were selected for both high graduation rates, adult-friendly centers, classes that are flexible, sound and convenient for adults, and all are fully regionally accredited.

Okasuk? Philadelphia is an initiative of the Philadelphia Workforce Development Board and the United City of Philadelphia. It is designed to increase the number of working adults with college degrees in the Greater Philadelphia region. For more information, please visit www.OkasukPhiladelphia.org.

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