

*"It's never too late to rewrite your story"*



"The decision to leave behind the life I knew – and was very successful in – was one of the hardest and most life-changing that I've ever made. In my mid-30s, I was starting over. I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to pursue as my next career, but I knew that I wanted more.

The plan was to go back to school at 38 years old and get my grade 12 equivalent. I didn't have a high school diploma and had only completed grade 10, so the thought of going back at my age was terrifying. However, this was not just about getting a piece of paper; it was about confronting my past that I wasn't proud of and proving to myself that I was capable of achieving my dreams.

The College Prep program at Loyalist College was going to be my first step to success.

I had to start from square one and relearn everything: grammar, punctuation, and the dreaded essays. It was frustrating, discouraging, and exhausting at times. But anytime I felt like giving up, there was someone in my corner.

The teachers in the Prep program were really like a lifeline. They didn't just teach me the material; they helped teach me to believe in myself.

I finished the program and finally got to walk across a stage with pride. Once I received my ACE certificate, I was accepted in the Business Accounting program at Loyalist College. After completing my first year, my grades are over 90%. I never thought I would ever see that when I first came to the upgrading program.

Now in my second year at 41 years old, with classmates that are half my age, I can't help but reflect on how far I have come. There is absolutely no way that I could have made it through my first and now my second year in college without the footings that the upgrading program helped me build.

I learned that it is never too late to start and to take control of your dreams and future.

I will forever be grateful for the effort, time, care that they put into me and my future.

— Christina, Loyalist College