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MSCC Adult Ed Grad to Receive State Honor for Top 10 GED Score

Shannan Lovett of West Memphis outperformed more than 99.5 percent of the Arkansas students who completed the GED® test in 2011, and she will be recognized for her achievement during a special ceremony conducted by the Department of Career Education.

“You are to be applauded for your academic performance on the GED® test,” wrote Janice Hanlon, Administrator of the Arkansas GED® Testing Program, in a letter to the state’s top 25 scorers. “Your achievement is outstanding and deserving of recognition.”

The top scorers will receive plaques on Tuesday, May 8, in the Old Supreme Court Room of the State Capitol Building in Little Rock.

Lovett, a student at Mid-South Community College, earned the ninth highest score of the 7,129 state students who took the exam last year.

“I was surprised at how high my score was,” Lovett said. “I knew I did well because the test didn’t seem very difficult, but I never would have thought I would have scored in the top 10 in the state.”

When asked if she’s excited about accepting the award, she said, ‘Oh yeah. My aunt is taking me the night before, and we’re going to spend the night in a hotel and have fun with it. It’s going to be exciting.’”



Lovett said MSCC's Adult Education program helped her progress quickly toward her goal.

"I did everything online at my own pace, and I love doing that," she said. "I was able to ask questions when I needed to and didn't have to stop when other people had questions. I was able to get through it a lot faster that way."

After taking the test, Lovett wasted no time in taking the next step.

"Before I even received my scores, I had already applied to the College," she explained. "When I received my scores, I went from there."

While she didn't know exactly how well she had scored on the exam, she did know that it was good enough to earn an MSCC GED® scholarship.

"The scholarship paid for all of my tuition, so that was really nice that I didn't have to worry about that," she said.

Lovett is working toward an Associate of Arts (transfer) degree, and wants to take as many classes as possible before transferring to the University of Memphis or University of Tennessee.

"I live here, so the longer I can stay and not go back and forth to Memphis for school, the better off I'm going to be in the long run," she said. "Right now, I'm just taking the basics. It's not extremely difficult for me, so it has made the transition into college a little easier."

Lovett has established some lofty goals for her future. She wants to become the first person in her family to earn a college degree, and then she wants enter the medical field to help people. She is considering the Biomedical Engineering program at the University of Memphis and the graduate program at Tennessee.

"I'm interested in molecular biology or neurobiology and would like to work at the laboratories at St. Jude," Children's Research Hospital, she said. "That's my ultimate goal."

Lovett said she is intrigued by tissue and organ regeneration.

"I would like the idea of participating in major tissue regeneration, and I want to help do it on a more massive scale," she said. "Making new tissues and organs is something I'm really interested in, but I basically want to do anything that will help people."

Originally from Hughes, Lovett and her family spent a handful of years in Tennessee before returning to Arkansas when she was in the sixth grade. She made it to the final semester of her senior year at Marion High School in 2010 before a variety of factors led to her decision to drop out.

“I was mainly a straight-A student, so course work and academics were never an issue,” she said. “It was other factors.”

“I was missing school, and then my sister got sick. A couple of times I stayed home with her, and it just started piling up to where I was going to have to repeat a semester. I didn’t want to do that. I knew I could get my GED®, so that gave me an option.”

Life intervened on various fronts before she buckled down to earn the high school equivalency certificate.

“When I quit high school, I moved out of my mom’s house and was on my own trying to find a job,” she explained. “It wasn’t a good time with so many things going on. I started in the program, but I had too many other things that I had to do. That was the only thing I could cut out. I was glad when I finally reached a place where I could finish the work.”

For information about Adult Education, general education, or technical training opportunities at MSCC, call (870) 733-6728, visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis, email admissions@midsouthcc.edu, or check the website at www.midsouthcc.edu.