

Judy Longboat is Lower Cayuga of the turtle clan.

She recently completed the Office Administration - Executive Diploma Program at Mohawk College. She is working part-time and hopes to obtain full-time permanent employment.

Judy feels her major accomplishment was making a drastic career change and doing this in four years.

In the year 2000 Judy had a grade 10 education and was employed at various factory jobs, when she decided to do something to change her career.

She spoke to a Counsellor at the Grand River Employment and Training Centre in Ohsweken and with the advice offered, started the steps to accomplish what she wanted. Judy took a four-week refresher course to

prepare for the GED test obtaining a grade 12 equivalency. She completed some computer courses and took a correspondence course in basic accounting at Six Nations Polytechnic. She was hired on a one year contract with the Grand River Post Secondary Education Office.

Once Judy completed the one year contract she was determined to improve on her weaknesses. She enrolled at Mohawk College for the one year Office Administration General Program. After completing this she transferred the credits toward the two year Office Administration – Executive Diploma Program that she graduated from in April, 2004.

It was a major challenge for Judy to return to school at a 40+ age while running a full-time busy home which includes the raising of three grandchildren.

The values and principles of an Onkwéhon:we person that guided Judy throughout her life were to “**take pride in**

who you are as a person, what you do to accomplish things in life and to never give up, because you can accomplish anything you set your mind to, as long as you keep walking in the right direction.”

Judy feels she can contribute to her community by **being an example** and showing that “**hard work, determination and pride in what you do, will always pay off in the end.”**

She feels the key challenge that people face is “**SELF-DISCIPLINE.”** She feels self-discipline could be accomplished by **allowing and encouraging our children to fashion their life styles after good role models,** even if this means they are watching someone other than you.

Judy’s words of encouragement and advice for young people is to “**set achievable goals for yourself and when these are accomplished then make greater ones until you achieve your ultimate goal**

in life.” She calls this “**using stepping stones”**. “You will never achieve anything if you keep setting unachievable goals in your path, eventually causing you to give up and **settling for something else.”**

“You can accomplish whatever you want to as long as you **DON’T QUIT.”**

Judy thanks her husband, children and grandchildren for all their love, support, patience and encouragement through these last two years, because without them she would not have been able to complete the Office Administration-Executive Diploma Program. She also thanks the Grand River Post Secondary Education Office Director, Rebecca Jamieson and her Counsellors-Paulie Hill and Jordon Fraser for all their support and encouragement and the rest of the staff at GRPSEO for the additional encouragement.