



## MESSAGE FROM MK AUGUST 2004 – GED UPDATE

*An update from Mary Katherine Moen, State Director of Adult Education  
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Ruth Ann Minner received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent annual GED conference held this year in Park City, Utah. Ruth Ann once sat outside the Delaware governor's office as a receptionist. Widowed with three sons at 32, she passed the GED Tests, then built a business and a career in politics. Today, she is the governor of Delaware.

GED candidates come from a myriad of backgrounds and represent the mosaic of America. Recognized in the United States and Canada by employers and institutions of higher learning, the GED Testing Program has served as a bridge to further education and employment opportunities for an estimated 15.4 million people. Rather than a final goal, a high school diploma is a launching point for each individual and critical to the success of our larger community. Passing the GED Tests provides adults with an opportunity to:

- earn their state's high school credential,
- move forward to pursue further education, training, and better jobs, and
- serve as role models for their families and generations to come.

More than 95 percent of US colleges and universities admit students with GED diplomas on the same basis as traditional high school graduates.

For calendar year 2002 in Nevada:

- 76.1% of adults who took the GED Tests passed them. This compares with a 70.5% national rate.
- The average age of these Nevada candidates was 26 years old.
- More males than females took and passed the tests.
- While education or employment were listed by many of Nevada's test takers, **personal satisfaction and positive role models were marked the most often as reasons for taking the GED Tests.**

Nevada's GED system is broad-based and is peopled with Examiners and Center Administrators as well as state office personnel. All players work hard at maintaining the integrity of the Tests, providing accommodations as warranted, providing testing on a regular basis, and ensuring timely scoring. We are all dedicated to providing services to the Ruth Ann Minners of Nevada!