

# Old Stone sees increase in GED grads

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Staff Reporter

CLEVELAND - Through the G.E.D. class provided by Old Stone Foundation, mothers without a high school diploma has an opportunity to resurrect their academic careers.

According to Marc Nathanson, executive director of Old Stone Foundation, they recently graduated 18 students, which is a fifty percent increase from last year. He attributes the program's increased participation on their increase in marketing in addition to a struggling economy with rising recession.

"Young people realize that, without the G.E.D, their career path is bleak," said Nathanson. He went on to explain how years ago people were able to enter the manufacturing industry without a diploma or it's equivalent but times has changed.

"It makes getting the G.E.D. just that more important," he continued.

Nathanson also explained that Old Stone Foundation is working closely with Tri-C to create ways for students to one or two semesters of course while working on the G.E.D., to get a jump-start on a career path. Currently, a number of students are at Tri-C.

Subsequently, Old Stone Foundation is also celebrating one graduate's acceptance into Kent State University through their G.E.D initiative program. Melanie Archuletta will enter the pre-pharmacy program in the College of Arts and Science this up-coming fall.

Nathanson mentioned the partnership with Big Brothers/Big Sisters that provides mentors for Old Stone students. "All of that helps with graduation rates," he said.

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