

## **Regan Peterson**

Nominated by *Jackie Edwards*  
Herkimer BOCES

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Regan Peterson as Student of the Year. Regan has been a leader in all the BOCES programs that she has participated in. She is admired and respected by her peers and her positive outlook is an inspiration to other students as well as the teaching staff.

Within the past few years Regan has evolved from a homeless unwed teen parent with no high school diploma into a college student at Herkimer County Community College with a promising future. Regan was insightful enough to know that she had to make some positive changes for her and her daughter born in August of 2007. She knew that she had to have a plan centered on education to ensure that her daughter would have a better life.

Regan sought out programs offered through Herkimer BOCES and became involved in Even Start and ReConnect in February of 2008. She readily accepted advice and assistance with setting goals and developing a plan for success. As she met each short term goal she would promptly set another for herself.

Despite the demands of raising a child and making time for educational requirements, Regan also took on the responsibility of holding down a job. At one point, Regan worked two jobs at one time so that she could provide for her daughter. Regan is willing to go to any lengths and work hard to improve her life.

As Regan approached the completion of her External Diploma Program in May 2009, she realized that although a high school diploma was a good start for an educational foundation, it would not be enough to secure a stable and well paying job in her area of interest. She signed up for an eight week Business Information System College offered through BOCES while waiting to start her program at Herkimer County Community College in the fall. Regan excelled in the Business Information Program and was a leader in her class. She often tutored others in areas that she easily mastered. Her instructor described her as positive and proactive.

Regan is currently enrolled in the Human Resources Management Program at college. Her grades reflect her determination to excel and achieve. Her former Even Start educator, Deb Kidder, described her as wonder to work with. Her positive attitude is contagious and appreciated. Regan is not only a positive role model for the other students in the Even Start program but she is a great role model for her daughter as well.