



Job Skill Technology, Inc
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For Immediate Release

September 18, 2007

The Flint Journal

“Dropouts Turn to PLATO for Another Crack at Diploma”

FLINT -- Faith Mankowski dropped out of school in the ninth grade and at 47, the Vienna Township resident has been trying for a year to get her GED.

Mankowski, who lost her job as a mold operator at Ventures Holdings Co. in Grand Blanc Township after 19 years, turned to PLATO.

Not the philosopher, the software program.

She's using it to help prepare for the GED exam.

"I need a diploma to get a good job," she said.

The PLATO software offers a secondary level curriculum, along with assessments in a variety of subjects. The program can be used for remedial learning, credit recovery, and to earn credits for graduation.

It's being successfully tried at Mott Adult High School, 2421 Corunna Road, and is starting in the Grand Blanc School District. Earlier this year, the Flint School District bought 65 PLATO Learning Inc. licenses, or seats for students, for about \$122,000.

Students are already plowing through reading and math lessons and boosting grade levels at the same time.

Mankowski is an example of how it can help.

While she isn't earning credits, she uses PLATO to learn math and reading.

"You have to get it before you go on," she said of PLATO's lessons. "You're actually really learning it."

From the end of June through the beginning of September, Mankowski raised her reading level 3.4 grades and her math level 4.7 grades.

Mott Adult serves those aged 20 and over who are working toward a GED and students 16-19 who have dropped out and want to earn a diploma.

Of 36 students who participated in the PLATO pilot, 25 pupils earned a half credit, Mott Adult officials said.

Job Skill Technology, Inc. is a leading solution provider of computer-based learning and educational tools for pre-kindergarten through adult learners. The company specializes in software, assessment and accountability solutions, e-learning, and hardware with special emphasis on technical support and training.

The company serves K-12 schools, alternative and adult education, state and local government, colleges and universities, correctional institutions, job training programs, corporations, and private industry.

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