

# Finally going back to school

Program supports adults with college dreams



Kimberly Lowe, 37, is preparing to go back to college with the help of Graduate! Philadelphia after dropping out as a sophomore in 1992.

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College students everywhere are sunbathing and pushing back all thoughts of exams right now, but Kimberly Lowe is chomping at the bit to get back into the classroom.

And Lowe has good reason to be excited. After leaving Temple University as a sophomore in 1992 due to family medical problems, and then entering the work force, the 37-year-old mother has registered for the fall semester at Chestnut Hill College to finish what she started so long ago.

Lowe's turnaround is largely thanks to Graduate! Philadelphia, which

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opened in February to help guide adults with some college credits back to school.

"This is just the beginning," said the former corrections officer and North Philadelphia resident. "I always wanted to do this, but I just needed the right time and right frame of mind to do this."

Graduate! Philadelphia and Lowe hope she will be

just the first of many success stories. The program's College Access Center at the Gallery has seen 600 clients so far, and at least 30 have registered for summer or fall classes.

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In Lowe's case, they helped her find a school that fit, apply for financial aid and build her confidence. Now she's looking forward to finishing her bachelor's degree in psychology and even taking her first exam. "I took a lot of mini courses [to get ready]," she said.