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**NEWS RELEASE – “EIGHTY-ONE YEAR OLD RECEIVES GED”**

As living proof of the phrase, “it’s never too late,” 81-year-old Frances Trivigno recently passed her General Education Development (GED) test to earn a high school diploma.

During the war, World War II, that is, Frances successfully talked her mother into allowing her to drop out of high school to attend secretarial school. She graduated secretarial school and got married. Over the next forty years she raised three children and operated a successful jewelry business with her husband. All along she knew she wanted to finish high school, but there was never time. So, on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, Frances, now a vibrant widow, made a resolution to herself that it was now or never to finish high school. In following up on this self-promise, Frances enrolled in the GED program at Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology (LWIT) in January, 2007.

According to Frances, “I do believe I was conscientious and showed up and did my time and I sure as heck studied.” Though there was no blood, it was certainly a year of sweat and a few tears. Through her determination and the help of instructors Linda Bonas and Louis Cureton, Frances achieved her lifelong goal. As for her future plans, Frances says, “I am going to enjoy the accomplishment. Now at this point, I’m going to need to do something since I’ve been coming to school every day, so I think I’m going to volunteer at the Sugden Theater.”

Her advice for others – especially for those who claim it’s too late for them – “Don’t let it pass you by, try pursuing it.”

To learn more, please contact LWIT Principal Jeanette Johnson at 377-0900 or via e-mail at [JohnsoJ2@collier.k12.fl.us](mailto:JohnsoJ2@collier.k12.fl.us).