

# IVRS Consumers

In the summer of 1998, I was diagnosed with Goodpasture's Syndrome. For two long years I was bedridden by a disease that ravaged my body, entrapping a healthy mind that longed for escape. All I had to keep me going during this time were my dreams.

In the fall of 2000, after many kind prayers, I emerged from my cocoon and step by step, I began to change those dreams into reality. It has been a long and arduous journey. There were many tears, countless sleepless nights studying until the wee hours of the morning. There were many days when I just wanted to raise the white flag in surrender.

As I walked across the stage on May 13 to accept my Bachelor Degree in Education, with an endorsement as a Reading Specialist, I carried in my heart all those that were there to wipe the tears, and who gave me the strength not to surrender.

I wish to personally thank you, Michelle and all those who have been a part of my educational journey at Vocational Rehabilitation. I don't think I could have done it without your help. All of you will always have a special place in my heart.

Thank you,

**Mary B. Keller**

