

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

David Tanner | Tennessee



In 2019, David started his journey through adult education at the age of 58 years old. When his company instituted a new payroll system that required everyone to input their educational history, David knew his secret was out. David had to inform his supervisor that he had never actually completed high school in the 1980's.

His supervisor, who David trained, was also disappointed that he hid this for years. She stated, "David, you helped me get to this position, now it's my turn to help you." She gave David the information for a local adult education program in Chattanooga and David called that same day.

The first lady David spoke with on the phone at the adult education center was extremely helpful in calming his fears. She explained the process and the supports that were available to help him through this process. She also shared options he could explore, like enrolling in college or joining an apprenticeship program, after he completed the HiSET® exam. Fourteen months later, David was able to participate in the graduation ceremony and received his high school equivalency diploma after 38 years!

Today David is fulfilling his second dream by attending Chattanooga State Community College. He has received the Tennessee Reconnect Scholarship, has earned a 3.0 GPA, and has decided to pursue a degree in graphic arts and digital media. David has received a substantial pay raise at his current job after receiving his high school equivalency diploma. He has also received support from his company while pursuing his associate's degree at Chattanooga State Community College. This has opened a pathway of upward mobility at this company. He states, "After fourteen years of being a loyal employee, I'm becoming what I always wanted to be: an asset, not a liability..." ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive