

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Hunter Smith-Hilton | South Carolina



Adult education was there to help Hunter, when she decided to take charge of her life. At 14 years old, Hunter quit school and throughout her teenage years was in and out of residential treatment centers in Utah, Virginia and South Carolina for drug and behavioral issues. When she turned 18, she attempted to get her GED® but did not stick with the program. For the next four years, she had no goal or desire to do anything and felt defeated.

Hunter finally decided to forge a new path; she enrolled in adult education classes. The first day of class, Hunter looked at Ms. Cecile Bryant, her GED® instructor, and said, “I have a plan for my life. I am going to get my GED® this year, get a nursing certification, get a job in the healthcare field, and get married.” Eleven weeks later, Hunter Smith earned her high school equivalency diploma and became a 2021 graduate.

Today, Hunter is 6 years drug free. After completing her program in the fall, she returned in the Spring Semester of 2022, and began health science classes at the Dorchester County Career and Technology Center in South Carolina. Hunter also got a job as a personal assistant at a senior assisted living facility on the memory care unit. Although her full-time job took precedence over completing the class, she was able to earn her OSHA 10 certification. Hunter was recently promoted to Lead Personal Assistant. She married the love of her life on May 20, 2022. Hunter's future goal is to attend Charleston Southern University to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and someday become a neonatal nurse. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive