

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Lemar Anderson | Virginia



Adult education provided Lemar with self-empowerment. A husband and father of three children, Lemar was incarcerated for 23 years in the Virginia prison system. Lemar's incarceration caused him to reevaluate his life choices and while he was in the Virginia Beach City Jail, he was motivated to further educate himself and obtain his GED.

Lemar credits the Hampton Adult Education (HAE) program in jail for awakening his capacity to learn more than he thought he was capable of. Even his teacher recognized his potential, and after doing really well on his pre-test, the teacher gave him the task of tutoring others in the jail. Lemar served as a tutor for seven years throughout his sentence and took advantage of the vocational education programs available to him. He enrolled in 11 programs including: custodial maintenance, business software, introduction to computers, data entry, graphics and print production, electrical, plumbing, and others.

Upon his release from prison in 2020, Lemar became an entrepreneur. He has received his commercial driver's license (CDL) and completed peer support training classes to become a peer recovery specialist. He also has his own crafts and apparel business where he makes and sells jewelry, masks, graphic tees, hoodies and other merchandise. His most recent success is becoming the owner/operator of a dump truck company.

Lemar dreams of going to college to pursue a degree in business administration and finance. He wants to use his degree to provide opportunities for others who have been incarcerated to find jobs and restart their lives. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive