

# ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Mamadou Soumare | Missouri



Growing up in Mali, Mamadou had the dream of coming to America ever since he could remember. In preparation for this dream, he moved to Ghana to get his passport approved and took beginner English classes for five months.

By 2021, Mamadou was on his way to America, however, when he arrived, his first encounters left him shaken. He was afraid because he could not understand English as well as he had hoped, and he felt hopeless when he was out in public places. His uncle prodded him to go to school to better his English, and late in 2021 he decided to attend an adult education class.

These classes not only improved his English, but gave him a cultural understanding of his new country, and boosted his confidence while out at the store or a restaurant. Mamadou states, “My teachers at Literacy KC gave me the confidence and courage to do anything I want.” His English skills have open doors for him, and he feels ready for any challenges ahead. When asked what challenges he faces today Mamadou simply states, “I feel better now.” He knows that with the support network and tools adult education has provided, any challenge can be overcome.

Today Mamadou has dreams of finishing high school in order to attend a university and become a police officer. Adult education fostered a love for learning in him, and gave him excitement about what the future can hold for him. He states, “I know that I can achieve my goals if I continue learning new things every day. My journey to America may be over, but my journey in America is not.” ■

*Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive*