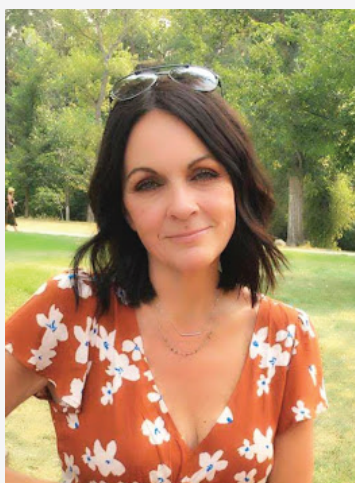


ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY



Nicole Moliga | South Dakota



Adult education became a necessity for Nicole when she found herself out of work with two grandsons to support, and underqualified for nearly every position she applied for.

Nicole had held professional positions in the past, but had to give up her career at a bank when she took full time custody of her grandchildren unexpectedly. Now, as she was looking for work she realized that without a highschool equivalency exam every door was closing on her.

Nicole was connected with the Prosperity Initiative who helped her enroll in adult education classes at Cornerstone Career Learning Services. She started attending very regularly, and just as supports lined up for her, COVID 19 became a new barrier. She worked her way through many distance learning lessons. She picked up packets and zoomed to class. She returned to the Career Learning Center of the Black Hills for face-to-face instruction in July. From July until November, Nicola was consistent, reliable, dedicated, and dependable in class.

Nicole Moliga spent over 700 hours in adult education classrooms, completed all of her subtests, and achieved three badges in the IBM SkillsBuild Courses offered to enhance customer service. She has currently taken a position as a receptionist at Black Hills Children's Home Society and is able to support her two grandsons without the help of public assistance. Adult education provided her the hand up she needed to update her skill set in an education forward economy, and empowered her to be financially self reliant. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive