

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Chelle Ferguson | West Virginia



When Chelle first entered her adult education program, she was struggling physically and emotionally from a tragic car accident that took the life of her mother seven years previously. Chelle and her two children thankfully survived the accident, a head-on collision with a drunk driver, but Chelle did not know if she would ever walk again. As Chelle struggled to gain strength to walk, her previous career path as a server and bartender left her in constant pain. This brought Chelle to the Strategic Planning in Occupational Knowledge for Employment and Success (SPOKES).

On Chelle's first day with SPOKES, her interest profile identified her desire to make a difference in the lives of others by assisting in the field of law. Chelle's focus was set, and she excelled through the SPOKES program having accomplished certifications in Customer Service, Computer Essentials, National Career Readiness Certificate (gold level) and Microsoft Word in the first seven weeks.

SPOKES gave Chelle a new sense of purpose. She shared, "SPOKES has helped me build more confidence in myself and is also preparing me for a better job, not on my feet!" Chelle continued to push forward and gain superior technological skills such as QuickBooks Pro, Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel Expert and Word Expert to become a Microsoft Office Associate. She continued to impress with her attention to detail and ability to stay focused on tasks.

Despite all of these challenges, Chelle graduated on time. In December of 2020, she reached her goal to make a difference in the lives of others by graduating with her associate's degree in paralegal studies. After a short, intense job search, she was hired in January at M. Santa Barbara Law. As of 2022, Chelle has been promoted to Legal Assistant at the law firm. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive