

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Haziel Lopez | Arizona



Adult education gave Haziel a path forward when it seemed too late for him. Haziel states, “My mom was on the verge of losing her job for using her lunch breaks to transport me and my sister from school. Daycare for my youngest sibling was getting expensive, too. The solution was that one of us would temporarily enroll into an online school.” Haziel decided to drop out during the first few weeks of his freshman year and volunteered to enroll in online school to watch his little brother.

The week he left school, his mom lost her job. Their car was taken away, and utilities were shut off to their apartment. Paying for basic necessities became an everyday obstacle. He states, “All that mattered to me for four years was being there for my family. I no longer had long term goals - my only goal was to survive.

People I knew were doing amazing things in their school life, and I was at home without an education. My self esteem was broken; my soul was broken.”

It was then that his mother suggested he enroll in adult education classes to attain his GED® at Pima College. Here he found an entire community who understood what he had been through and was willing to help him overcome the obstacles and press on.

Today, Haziel has passed all sections of his GED® exam. In addition, he has completed his Associate Degree through Pima College and is enrolled in Arizona State University for the fall. He writes, “We should acknowledge that our adversity leads to survival and use our skills to reach out to others who might not know that help is out there. I want to always advocate for those who need someone to show them that they matter in our education system.” ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive