

# ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Richard Sandoval | New Mexico



Adult education gave Richard the support he needed to pursue his high school equivalency diploma. Growing up, Richard was the youngest of three siblings in a single-parent household. His older brother was always in trouble, and his mother dedicated a lot of her time and energy to get him on the right track. Richard states, “...when it came to me, she didn’t have any energy left to motivate me to care about my education.”

His older sister often mocked him, and she would tell him constantly what a loser he would grow up to be. “Hearing that day in and day out for most of your young life, you can’t help but think it’s true, and then you just stop trying,” Richard remembers. When he got to high school, he simply gave up. He did not see any other path forward in school and decided that it was not for him.

Over the years, Richard had attempted to get his GED® credential, but any time he failed a portion of the test or felt that some of the material was difficult for him, he believed it was because he was destined to fail, to be a loser like his sister had always said. He did not have the proper support and motivation to build him up and help him through. That changed when he enrolled in Albuquerque Adult Learning Center (AALC). At AALC, Richard received the help he needed to learn the material and met many other like-minded people who had struggled in school but were ready for a change.

Now, after working hard for a year and a half, Richard has passed all portions of his GED® test. He is intrigued by many new career pathways, and is planning on pursuing a career in the medical cannabis industry. ■

*Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive*