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COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

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ADULT EDUCATION
An Investment in America's Future

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

David Maxwell | Florida

Adult education met David in the midst of his grief and loss. When David's wife suddenly passed away, he was heartbroken and left with few job options. David had been a stay-at-home dad for years, and his time out of the workforce was an obstacle. In addition, David did not have a high school diploma.

Left with three young boys to raise and provide for, David knew he needed to rise to the challenge and forge a new career. At this time, David enrolled in Adult Learning Center Osceola (ALCO) and began classes to complete his GED®. He was afraid he could not do it and felt ashamed about returning to school after so many years. However, David's determination and tenacity paid off, and in January of 2022, he graduated, earning his high school diploma.

Even with this accomplishment, David wanted more. He was not done yet. He wanted to become a paraprofessional, and with everyone's encouragement, he followed that goal. Shortly after earning his high school diploma, he took the paraprofessional test and passed. David became a paraprofessional at Chesnut Elementary School in Osceola County, doing what he said he would do.

Today, David has furthered his position in the school and has risen to the position of Behavioral Specialist. Now that he has found his career, he is thankful for those in his adult education program that welcomed him and believed in all that he could do. David states that he now knows, "I am worth the time and effort." ■