



**COABE**  
COALITION ON ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

**educate&  
elevate**  
ADULT EDUCATION  
An Investment in America's Future



## ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Ashley Johnson | Alabama

Adult education gave Ashley the opportunity to unlock her immense potential. In high school, Ashley skipped school and never studied. Nothing anyone ever said to her made a difference, even from her parents. She states, "I dealt with self esteem issues and to cover that I acted out, and that caused me to get expelled from school. I was in the 11th grade when I decided to drop out and get my GED®." Finally on her own steam in an adult education program, Ashley began to value her school work. She worked hard and realized that she could do it!. In 2006, Ashley earned her GED® credential and knew she did not want to stop there.

Directly after, Ashley enlisted in the National Guard. She states, "It was one of the best decisions of my life. I learned discipline, structure, and I gained the accountability I needed to push me forward and to change my mindset." This experience launched her to greater success: being awarded the Soldier of the Year, appearing on Commandant's lists for several military training schools, and successfully earning two degrees during her time there.

Today, Ashley Johnson has walked the stage and earned her MBA. She has started two businesses since, and is starting a non-profit, called the Pivot Path, to help others, like her, finish their GED® credential and unlock their greatest potential. She leaves us with these inspiring words, "Bet on yourself and don't give up too soon. Will there be frustration? Yes! But it will all be worth it when you look back at your journey. Lastly, when you make it to the other side, don't forget to reach back and help someone else across." ■