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ADULT EDUCATION
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ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Brandy Logan | Minnesota

Adult education would change Brandy's life path. At sixteen, none of her circumstances were in her favor. She was homeless, a high-school dropout, a daughter of parents who engaged in substance abuse, and a teen mom. She seemed doomed to be stuck in a generational cycle of drugs and poverty. But at 21 years old, seeing a fellow waitress struggle with the job's physical demands as she aged, Brandy realized she would have the same future if she didn't make a drastic change. She saved her money, took the GED® exam, and began attending community college. With her PELL grant covering daycare, she worked and studied full time.

Sadly, Brandy had to put her college dreams on the back burner when her husband—and father of her new baby—was diagnosed with kidney failure. She prioritized caring for him and her children, even donating her kidney to save his life. When she was able, she began an online bachelor's degree program for secondary education with an emphasis in social studies. Upon completion, she started a part-time position teaching adult learners in a GED® program and earning her master's degree in special education. She guided her students to learn skills training and helped them with job placement. Now working at the state level, she mentors local agencies that administer WIOA funds to the community to combat poverty and build self-sufficiency. Brandy is also currently obtaining her Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership.

Brandy continues to work for adult learners because she wants to be the advocate that she never had. Her experiences inspire her to create better pathways for others. ■