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ADULT EDUCATION
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ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Chantea Harmon | Delaware

Adult education reignited a passion in Chantea. After her mother's death, 12-year-old Chantea lost all hope for a future. Chantea states, "When they lowered the coffin in the ground, a part of me went with her. I had no hopes, no dreams, and definitely no plans for the future. Life would eventually go on with a huge void."

At 17 years old, Chantea dropped out of high school and moved to Delaware to be with her boyfriend, who is now her husband of 26 years. By the time she was 33, Chantea had opened her own cleaning business and was very successful at it, but she never felt that she was living up to her potential.

She took a leap of faith and enrolled at James H. Groves Adult High School to earn her diploma. Juggling work, life, and school was not easy, and many nights she found herself crying after getting off work and going to class. Even through her difficulty, Chantea pushed on. One day, she was approached by a teacher in the program about taking a paid position as a mentor and student advocate for the state of Delaware. Chantea was interviewed and hired, and she states, "This was the beginning of my life changing. I loved every bit of the organization and what we did." Chantea eventually graduated from her program and was even asked to be the speaker at graduation.

Today Chantea is the team leader of the entire organization for the state, holds an associate's degree in elementary education, and is just one semester away from graduating with her bachelor's degree in general studies. Chantea plans to continue her education and become an ABE teacher so that she can help others along on their journey, just like adult education did for her. ■