

# ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Alexis Ruebeck | Delaware



Adult education helped Alexis to be a role model for her siblings.

Although creative and artistic by nature, Alexis struggled in school due to a rough childhood, financial struggles, and separation from her siblings. With all of these obstacles demanding her attention, she found herself falling behind in school. Moreover, mental health issues often made simple

things—like getting out of bed—difficult, and the thought of taking steps to significantly improve her future seemed impossible.

However, as she got older, she worried for her siblings. She states, “I saw my younger siblings falling down that same path I did.” This gave her the perspective that she needed. She talked to her high school counselor looking for advice. Her counselor suggested she enroll in James H. Groves Adult High School (JGAHS).

At first, Alexis was hesitant; she knew traditional high school was not working, but she was unsure about entering an adult program while she was still so young. As soon as she got there, though, she knew something was different. She thrived in this new environment, and within a few months she had earned her diploma. Soon afterwards, she enrolled in classes at Delaware Technical Community College.

Alexis currently works with the Organization of Adult Alumni and Students in Service (OAASIS) helping other students who are facing their own struggles to meet their educational goals. Her current goals for herself are to graduate college, work in the medical field, and continue supporting other students with their education. She wants to show them that anything is possible, even when it feels impossible. ■

*Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive*