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ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Cloe Hardy | West Virginia

Adult education was not a path that Cloe envisioned for herself, but when her life took a turn, and high school was not an option for her, adult education was there to give her a pathway to success. Cloe's high school would not allow her to attend anymore after an extended absence period where Cloe struggled with mental health issues.

After moving in with her grandparents, Cloe enrolled in a local adult education program. At first she felt confused and frustrated at not being able to continue her education with her peers, and struggled to feel at home in her new program. Nevertheless, Cloe persisted, and her outlook on adult education began to change as she worked with a Career Connections counselor who introduced her to a paid work experience at a local boutique called Great Clips.

Cloe had always wanted to become a cosmetologist, and getting hands-on experience at a paying job proved to her that she had potential and helped her persevere and continue studying to receive her high school diploma. Even still, Cloe felt discouraged as others appeared to learn more quickly than she did. Cloe watched a few of her classmates whiz through all five subjects and started to feel down. However, she never gave up. She demonstrated perseverance and ambition. Her teachers could see the change in her and gave her a lot of encouragement to keep going.

Today, Cloe has passed her HiSET math exam! She has applied to West Virginia University at Parkersburg and just found out that she has been admitted to their cosmetology program and will attend classes this fall. Cloe has some advice for those out there that are not sure if adult education is for them. She says, "Even though it can be overwhelming at first, and you feel like you are running in circles, just try your absolute best and pay close attention in class." She also advises that you take notes if you need to and stay after class, when possible, to work on your own. Cloe stated that a growth mindset is important. She encourages, "Tell yourself that you want this, and do not say that you cannot because you can!" ■