**Katie Caughron**

As a sophomore at Harrisburg High School, Katie Caughron enrolled in the schools Transition Program. The program included worked-based learning (WBL) and ARS Pre-ETS Summer and Circles Programs. This led to her referral to ARS Counselor Sharon Rowe.

After graduation from high school in May 2019, Katie decided she wanted a job to save up money to live independently and buy her own car. Being diagnosed with a learning and intellectual disability, as well as speech impairment wouldn’t stop her from accomplishing her goals.

Shortly after graduating, Katie applied for and was accepted into the Project Search Internship Program at St. Bernard’s Hospital in Jonesboro. The internship caters to individuals with disabilities between the ages of 18 to 35. Participants must have completed their 9-month internship, which includes 3 rotations in hospital departments that expand on their strengths and weaknesses. Accommodations are incorporated, if necessary, for an intern to successfully learn employability skills, self-advocacy, and independence.

Before graduating from Project Search in May 2021, Katie got her driver's license and was offered a position as a laundry attendant at the hospital. She is employed full time with benefits.

Since graduating, she continues to help the Project Search Program Team with recruitment of prospective students by sharing her story with incoming interns and students in area high schools.

Katie and her parents are so proud and thankful for all her accomplishes. They’re eternally grateful to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, ACCESS Group, and St. Bernard Medical Center.
Richard Eagle

In July 2020, Richard Eagle came to ARS looking for help finding employment. During his meeting with his counselor, he was deemed eligible for the Supported Employment program.

Eagle met with several ARS vendors and chose one he thought would work. Shortly after however, the vendor went through a change in personnel, affording Richard the opportunity to change vendors.

Richard’s counselor sent an application to a new vendor, and he was contacted the same week. The company worked with him to help him apply for jobs and go on interviews. After only a month, he received a job offer.

In October 2021, Eagle was hired as a production worker at Logistic Warehouse, and he has been able to maintain his employment.

Richard credits ARS for helping him gain employment. When asked about his employment, he said he really likes his job, and they treat him very well and provide him opportunities to train in other areas.

Richard’s case was closed successfully in February 2022.
Gary Crain

Gary Crain came to ARS 11 years ago for assistance getting hearing aids. He recently returned looking for job placement services after becoming unemployed. In collaboration with ARS and The Small Business Program, Gary developed a business plan for his hay business.

Crains primary need was for a tractor. After a short search, he was very excited to find a tractor at Williams Tractor Supply in Fayetteville. Once he replaces the water pump, Gary will be traveling all over Johnson and Pope counties cutting hay.

Gary was thrilled with the opportunity to strengthen and expand his business. He is grateful for all Arkansas Rehabilitation Services has done for him over the years.
**Tyra Coffey**

After learning about Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Tyra Coffey was connected to a counselor to develop a plan for job placement. Due to challenges with mobility orthopedic impairments, she needed a job that would accommodate her needs.

ARS staff assisted Tyra with researching and applying for jobs that connected with her interest and met her physical requirements. A Business Engagement representative quickly found her employment at the Griffin Leggett funeral home as a receptionist.

Since gaining employment, Tyra and her counselor have kept in close contact to ensure all her needs were being met. This job allows her to work a schedule that fits her needs while allowing her to sit whenever needed.
Tyler Simpson

After high school, Tyler Simpson enrolled at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with the goal of becoming an RN. Initially, her plan was to graduate from the university with an Associate of Applied Science and Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After only one semester, however, she realized that she desired to become an advanced practice registered nurse instead.

During this time, Simpson learned about ARS and was connected to her vocational counselor Maria Rose. Together, they discussed her ambitions and came up with an Individualized Plan of Employment to make those goals a reality.

Throughout her undergraduate career, Tyler continued receiving counseling, guidance, and support. ARS also helped in financing her tuition which allowed her to focus more on her academic and career goals. That extra help led her to pursue a Health Science Minor and a Bachelor of Science in Health Education and Promotion.

After graduating from UALR, Tyler was licensed and certified as an RN. She went on to enroll and graduate from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She became a licensed and certified APRN after completing their Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Program.

Tyler says she is thankful for all the encouragement, support, and instruction she received from ARS. When asked about her experience, she says “The resources and knowledge that I acquired through the assistance of ARS have carried me throughout my entire nursing career and through my current path to my Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. As a current DNP degree candidate, I am forever indebted to ARS for the development of an individualized plan to aid in the achievement of my desired goals and aspirations.”