



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

ARS
Success Stories

February 2023

Andrew Sams



Andrew Sams has worked hard to overcome the challenge of his speech impairment to achieve his dream of gaining meaningful employment. Through his work with his vocation rehabilitation counselor and with Easterseals Arkansas, Sams was able to develop the skills and confidence he needed to take his career aspirations further.

His hard work and determination paid off and today he proudly works as a supervisor at Burger King, where he is held in high regard by both his coworkers and managers. He has held this position since April of 2021.

He's become a testament to the power of persistence and serves as an inspiration for others who struggle to pursue their goals. Andrew describes his experience with ARS as bring very helpful.



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Cameron Barnes

Cameron Barnes had always known she wanted to make a difference. With her diagnosis of Auditory Processing Disorder, she found the college path to be more challenging than she had originally thought. But after reaching out to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for assistance with college training, she was able to prepare for and eventually obtain a degree from the University of Central Arkansas.

After graduation, Cameron connected with a job placement specialist who helped her work toward gainful employment. Fast forward to present day and she is now making her dream a reality. Working as a special education teacher at Hopebridge Autism Therapy Centers, she makes an incredible impact on the lives of the students every day.



Thanks to the help from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and the drive to achieve her goals, Cameron was able to follow her passion and has created a place of hope and love for all her students.



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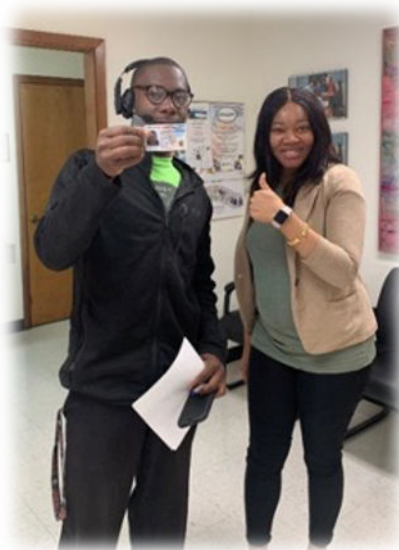
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La'Tray Burnell

La'Tray Burnell's journey to achieve his goals was a tough one, with many hurdles along the way. When Burnell had difficulties succeeding in a classroom setting, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services stepped in to help in 2021. His counselor supported him while applying for and securing employment at C.R. England Inc. where he obtained his training and eventually his CDL.



Throughout the process, Burnell never stopped believing in himself and kept pushing forward despite his limitations. His counselor stayed with him through his struggles and remained a strong advocate throughout the entire process.

After obtaining his CDL, La'Tray couldn't help but express his gratitude for the unwavering support of his counselor. With all the hard work, determination, and support, La'Tray achieved his goals and can look forward to a promising career as a truck driver. With a newfound optimism and excitement for the future, he exclaimed to his counselor, "I'm glad I had you to keep me motivated".



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Rosa Llanes

With the diagnoses of Intellectual Disability (ID), Speech Impairment, Learning Disability (SLD) and other health impairments (OHI), Rosa Llanes was referred to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. While still in high school, she was enrolled in the Pre-ETS WOLF Program. This program gave Rosa the necessary skills to engage in worked-based Learning (WBL).

Through dedication, perseverance, and determination, she managed to excel in the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Summer Program, as well as in the Virtual Career Competition (VCC), where she won first place with a prize of \$800.

Rosa graduated in May 2021 and expressed her desire to live independently, obtain employment and purchase her own car. Thus, with the support and guidance of her guardians, family and teacher, Rosa was accepted into Project SEARCH® Arkansas: ACCESS initiative Internship Program at St. Bernard Hospital. Here, she engaged in various activities and internships that allowed her to build up her employability and self-advocacy skills. She was also able to obtain her driver's license and developed her knowledge in money management and cooking.

Ultimately, Rosa secured a job at her Alma Mater as a cook at Westside High School, a perfect fit for her skills and interests. She showcased excellent communication skills, strong work ethic and a positive attitude, making her an asset in her workplace. Rosa's success story is inspiring and proves that with the right support and resources, nothing is impossible.

Rosa and her family are thankful for the immense support they have received from the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, the ACCESS Group, and the St. Bernard Medical Center, that allowed her to make her dreams a reality.

