



Arkansas Division of  
**Workforce Services**

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

**ARS**  
**Success Stories**

**April 2023**

## **Daniel Jones**

After years of hard work, Daniel's disability didn't keep him from his lifelong ambition. Despite the pain and discomfort from an ill-fitting prosthetic leg, Daniel continued to push on as a tractor trailer truck driver for Walmart.

The professionals at Arkansas Rehabilitation Services saw Daniel's determination and helped in the form of a brand-new prosthetic leg and foot, a perfect fit to get him back on his feet and back to the job he loves.

Now, Daniel is grateful and optimistic as he gets ready to start the day with renewed strength and enthusiasm. Through sheer hard work, dedication, and assistance from those willing to lend a helping hand, Daniel was able to accomplish what he set out to do – prove that no obstacle is too big to overcome.





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## **David Lane**

David Lane is a testament to the perseverance and dedication that comes from facing adversity. Since being born with a hearing impairment, he was met with challenges early on that would have been impossible for the average person to conquer. But with the help of the Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, he was able to pursue his dream of being a mechanic, even if he had to find a different route to get there.

After trying his hand in the restaurant industry, David decided to take a leap of faith and pursue a job with Engineering Technology Services as a hydraulic technician. He knew the risks that came with it but pushed himself, passing the training and obtaining the job he wanted. He would continue to be supported by the ARS, even as he was receiving Cochlear Implants that allowed him to interact and communicate with his coworkers better.

David is an inspiration to everyone facing challenges with hearing impairments. Through his sheer determination, he proved that obstacles can be conquered, and dreams can be made a reality. He never let the adversities and stereotypes stop him.



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## **Ryan Elliott**

After many years of struggling with his disability, Ryan Elliott is finally achieving his dreams. He has come a long way since working in various fast-food restaurants and he is thankful to ARS for providing him with the necessary assistance and training needed to obtain a tattoo license in 2022.

This new opportunity has not only allowed Ryan to follow his passion for tattooing but also helped him to manage his stress and anxiety levels. He is excited to be working with his family and looks forward to pursuing the career of his dreams.





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## Kelsey Cookman



Kelsey Cookman began her journey at ARS back in 2019 after graduating high school. She went to the University of Pulaski Tech, maintaining a high 3.0 GPA throughout her college journey. During her last semester there, Kelsey had her sights set on Dental Assistant Training at APEX, as this would be a great career for her.

Whitin a matter of months she earned a "Registered Assistant" permit with the Arkansas Department of Health with expanded duties in X-Ray, Polishing, and Nitrous issuance.

Westrock Orthodontics hired Kelsey as soon as she was finished with the program, and she loves her new career. It's hard to keep up with Kelsey these days; her determination to be the best dental assistant around is really paying off!

When asked about her experience with ARS, she said *"I want to thank ARS (especially Cecilia Brunson) for its financial support and encouragement throughout my educational pursuits and beyond. With my disability, there are many costs associated with treatment - all in addition to focusing on the costs of treatment and school. ARS also encouraged me to keep working hard as I pursued my goals. Without a doubt, ARS is one of the primary reasons I was able to graduate with Dental Assistance degree. I owe ARS many thanks!"*



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## Cam McIlvoy

Cam McIlvoy is an ambitious young man from Paragould, Arkansas who was determined to become a Lineman. He worked tirelessly to apply to schools to hone his skills to reach his goal. Through the support of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and his VR counselor, Jason Moore, he was able to obtain the necessary certifications, job placement and knowledge to advance in his chosen field.



While applying to different schools, Cam was accepted into the North American Lineman Training Center in McEwen, Tennessee. The next several months were spent diligently completing his training, until he finally graduated from NALTC in May 2022. He was soon offered a position at Jonesboro City, Water & Light, which he accepted.

Throughout the process, Cam remained positive and achieved his goals. His hard work and perseverance paid off, resulting in a substantial raise and his ARS case was closed in March 2023.