



Arkansas Division of  
**Workforce Services**

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

# ARS Success Stories

*April 2024*

## **Wade Mount**

Wade Mount, a former client of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, is now a truck driver at Lane Housley Trucking in Greenbrier. Diagnosed with osteoarthritis, he learned about Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and began working with a vocational counselor to determine his eligibility for services and support.

Together, Wade and his counselor identified challenges and potential solutions to help him secure and maintain full-time work. The ARS team collaborated closely with Wade and partner organizations to provide tuition assistance, counseling, and other accommodations. With this assistance, he graduated and obtained a successful trucking career that enables the accommodations he needs for his disability.



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## **Jase Mattix**



Jase Mattix came to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services four years ago seeking assistance for his ADHD and intellectual disability. Evaluations revealed vocational limitations including difficulty shifting between tasks, needing frequent supervision to initiate and achieve goals, high distractibility, and few general skills.

While attending Jonesboro High School, he contacted ARS and a counselor assisted him in accessing services and training, including enrolling in the welding program at Arkansas

State University Newport.

After promptly completing the program, Jase gained employment at Southern States Metal Roofing Supply Inc. as a machine operator.



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## **Alexis Johnson**

Alexis Johnson, a dedicated educator at Arkansas Tech University, has spent seven years teaching oral communications. Despite being diagnosed with hearing loss at the tender age of 7, she has persevered, relying on hearing aids to navigate the auditory world.

Recently, she faced challenges in her teaching role, struggling to hear her students' questions, engage in staff meetings, and speak with colleagues unless directly facing them. After speaking with her audiologist, Alexis sought assistance knowing that hearing aids would make a big difference.

After reaching out to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Alexis was connected with a supportive counselor. With their aid, she acquired a new pair of hearing aids, marking a significant turning point in her professional journey. Now equipped with enhanced auditory capabilities, she can effortlessly communicate with both students and coworkers, ensuring her continued effectiveness as an educator.

Expressing her gratitude, Alexis reflects on her experience with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, emphasizing the transformative impact of their support: "Having hearing aids is life-changing for me. I'm not able to hear well without them. They were patient with me throughout the entire process and worked diligently to ensure I received the assistance I needed. I truly appreciate them. Thank you!"





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## **Kuriarte Harris**

High school wasn't easy for Kuriarte Harris. For him, learning and staying focused felt like an uphill battle, often leaving him feeling down and discouraged. Despite receiving support through an IEP plan, he found himself struggling to complete 11th grade at Forrest City High School. Thankfully, with the unwavering support of his grandmother, he found the determination to push through and finish his education. He eventually switched to an alternative school and earned his G.E.D. from Job Corps in 2017.



After his time at Job Corps, Kuriarte was connected with ARS for vocational rehabilitation. Here, he received a range of services, including counseling, evaluations, college training, assistance with job placement, and ongoing support. He pursued his studies at East Arkansas Community College, earning an A.A.S. in Industrial Equipment Technology in 2022.

Now, Kuriarte is thriving as a full-time laborer/material handler at Boar's Head in Forrest City. He's found fulfillment in his role, where he's responsible for moving freight and stock for the company. With his newfound industry skills, he has also seen improvements in his copying and social skills, allowing him to stay focused and productive on the job.

Reflecting on his journey, Kuriarte expressed his gratitude for ARS, saying, "The agency really helped me out a lot. I'm very thankful for what you all done for me." His advice to others facing similar challenges? "Keep on trying, and don't give up."