



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

ARS
Success Stories

January 2023

Shamarkus Crawford



The Adult Education Center referred Shamarkus Crawford to Arkansas Rehabilitation Center in March of 2018. Because of a learning disability, he was having trouble attaining his GED. He also needed help with job placement.

During his first time working with ARS, Crawford was able to successfully obtain his GED as well as a job by December 2019. While working, his case was closed. About 8 months later, he came back to ARS with the goal of becoming a barber.

After successfully completing training at WestArk Barber College in Fort Smith, Shamarkus earned his barbers license in February 2022. Since then, he has worked hard to build up his clientele by working at two barber shops.

Shamarkus now has plans to open his own barbershop. He is currently in the process of receiving financial assistance through ARS' Small Business Program. He has made tremendous strides in his pursuit of success and his story is still being written.



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Jennifer Barnett

After being diagnosed with narcolepsy, Jennifer Barnett knew she would need help seeking full time employment. After receiving information about Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, she was paired with a vocational counselor.

Barnett and her counselor worked closely to figure out her goal and come up with a plan to navigate any challenges. Together, they came up with a strategy to get and maintaining full time employment.

Jennifer was provided with full tuition assistance as well as vocational rehabilitation counseling. After graduating from training, she was able to obtain employment that allowed the accommodations she required.

Barnett is currently an Associate Veterinarian at 'All Creatures Veterinary Hospital' in Mountain Home.





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Melina Rivera

After working as a paraprofessional aide for 4 ½ years for the Arkansas School for the Deaf, Melina Rivera decided she wanted to be a Deaf Interpreter (DI). A Deaf Interpreter (DI) facilitates communication between a deaf person, a hearing person, and an American Sign Language English Interpreter.

Rivera, who is deaf herself, knew that there were no DI's in the state of Arkansas. Looking for assistance in becoming the first, she came to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services in 2019.



Melina began taking courses in the interpreter program at Western Oregon University. In May of 2022, she graduated with her bachelor's degree making her the only Deaf Interpreter in the state of Arkansas.

She now works at a mental health facility with deaf and hard of hearing children with behavioral problems. After work hours, she also does freelance DI work with educators, police, hospitals, etc.

Melina says she's grateful for the support services she has received from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services as well as the help received to complete her education and goals.



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Jamal Glover

When physical impairments began to cause Jamal Glover to experience limitations with work, he was referred to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services for help. He was paired with a vocational counselor who helped him determine any challenges and find solutions to maintain full time employment.

After some time, Glover realized he wanted to own his own barbershop. He created a small business plan and submitted it to the small business consultant at ARS. That plan was then reviewed and determined feasible.

ARS staff worked as a liaison between Jamal and a partnered vender that provided equipment and supplies to begin and improve his shop. He is now a barber and proud owner of 'Simple but Effective Cutz' barbershop.