



Arkansas Division of  
**Workforce Services**

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

# ARS Success Stories

*July/August 2024*

## Jenna Lewis

Jenna first came to ARS looking for tuition assistance to go to college to increase her employability skills and work towards having a career. She experienced limitations in several categories regarding her physical health. Jenna was determined to overcome her limitations and complete college. Counselor and client worked together to address the limitations she faces and the support that may be needed to complete a training program.

Throughout her case, she received assistance with tuition, books, physical therapy, and accommodations in her workplace to maintain her employment. During her time at UCA, she was able to intern with the Department of Finance Administration and then was employed full-time there once she graduated and received her diploma. Jenna graduated from UCA in December 2023 and secured employment as an Auditor with the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration.





Arkansas Division of  
**Workforce Services**

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

# ARS Success Stories

**July/August 2024**

## Shelby Sanders

Shelby Sanders was referred to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) by the school counselor during her senior year at Mount St. Mary's High School. She was diagnosed with a specific learning disability in reading fluency and received academic accommodations under a 504 plan.



Shelby initially applied for ARS services in 2018 and was determined eligible for ARS resulting from a major disabling condition of Cognitive impairment, which is impairments involving learning, thinking, processing information, and concentration. Shelby attended The University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and graduated in May of 2022 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education. ARS was able to assist Shelby in obtaining her vocational goal through a

variety of services that included: evaluation, counseling and guidance, job placement and follow-up. Additionally, ARS assisted with books and tuition for eight semesters while Shelby attended school at the University of AR - Fayetteville. In August of 2022, Shelby was employed by Farmington Elementary School as a Special Education Teacher.

*"I have always struggled in school due to my disability of ADHD and reading fluency. It was my dream to go to the University of Arkansas and study to become a Special Education teacher to help others just like me. I was able to graduate and made it on the chancellor's list twice! Arkansas Rehabilitation Services helped with this success!"*



Arkansas Division of  
**Workforce Services**

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

# ARS Success Stories

**July/August 2024**

## **Brooke DeSalvo**

Ms. Brooke DeSalvo came to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services in April 2020, requesting assistance so she could pursue a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Her counselor, Sunnie Martin, noticed that one of Ms. DeSalvo's many strengths was determination and that she sets goals and doesn't stop until they are accomplished.

Mrs. DeSalvo had been diagnosed with anxiety disorder a few years ago but was determined that it wasn't going to hold her back from achieving her goals. Ms.

DeSalvo is taking her last class this

summer at the University of Central Arkansas and will complete her bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Ms. DeSalvo began employment in May of 2024 with Mason Law Firm & Associates, LLC. Ms. DeSalvo stated, "I recently graduated from the University of Central Arkansas this spring, and I am pursuing law school with hopes of becoming an attorney. Before graduation, I applied to one law school in December 2023 for the 2024-2025 cohort, and I learned earlier this year that I had not been accepted. However, I'm currently working on new applications to multiple schools this time around, and I plan to keep trying until I am accepted into law school. I am forever grateful and appreciative of the support and resources that Arkansas Rehabilitation Services has provided to me. Without your support and encouragement, I would not have made it thus far!"







## Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

# ARS Success Stories

*July/August 2024*

### Logan Vest

Dear Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Team,

I am writing to share my success story and to express my heartfelt gratitude for the tremendous support and opportunities provided by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) throughout my journey. My name is Logan Vest, and I am honored to recount how vocational rehabilitation services have been instrumental in helping me achieve my educational and professional aspirations.

My journey with ARS began during my senior year of high school when I first qualified for services due to a childhood disability. Under the guidance and encouragement of my dedicated counselor, Lisa Earls, I embarked on a path that would transform my life. Through ARS, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), where I graduated at the top of my class. This foundational experience equipped me with the skills and confidence to pursue further education.

Along with my success at ACTI, I was also enrolled at National Park Community College, where I completed a general associate's degree. Eager to further enhance my qualifications, I then pursued and completed an associate degree in business at ASU-Newport. My educational journey culminated in earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Arkansas State University.

The knowledge and skills I acquired through my education empowered me to secure a position at the White River Area Agency on Aging as the Ticket to Work Coordinator. In this role, I am privileged to work closely with ARS, assisting others in their vocational rehabilitation journeys. My work is both fulfilling and impactful, as I help individuals navigate their paths to employment and independence.

I am proud to share that my dedication and performance in this role have been recognized by the CEO of the White River Area Agency on Aging. This recognition fuels my ambition to continue excelling and contributing to our mission. One day, I aspire to become the CEO of this organization, where I can further influence and inspire positive change.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. The guidance, resources, and encouragement I received have been invaluable in overcoming challenges and achieving my goals. ARS has not only provided me with the tools for success but also instilled in me a sense of empowerment and determination.

Thank you, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, for believing in my potential and for being a pivotal part of my journey. I am eternally grateful for the opportunities you have afforded me and look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to help others achieve their dreams.

Warmest regards,

**Logan Vest**

Ticket To Work Coordinator



Arkansas Division of  
**Workforce Services**

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

# **ARS Success Stories**

***July/August 2024***

## **Precious Jones**

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services works with individuals to assist in gaining the knowledge, skills and resources to obtain and maintain meaningful employment. Precious Jones is a former client of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and a small business owner of Unique Wigs. Unique Wigs is a wig business that aims to provide high-quality and stylish wigs to customers looking to enhance their appearance and express their unique personalities. Ms. Jones experiences physical challenges resulting from her disability that often impact her work function and daily living. After receiving information about Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, she was quickly connected with a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor, and they began working to determine eligibility and complete the necessary steps to aid. The client and counselor worked closely to discuss challenges and solution strategies to assist the client in maintaining full-time employment. Ms. Jones submitted her small business plan and worked with the Small Business Program manager, who determined her business to be feasible. The client, counselor, and small business manager worked as a team to review and obtain items that the client needed to grow and improve her small business. The items were obtained and provided to the client so that she could adequately perform her duties and ensure a successful business outcome!