



Career Learning Center
—of the Black Hills

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES 2023-24

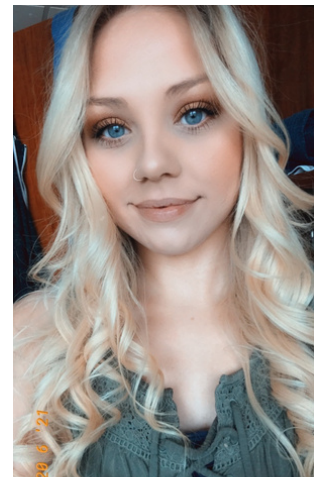


CINDY

Cindy persevered through a childhood filled with hardships. As an adult Cindy showed leadership skills and began her life in advocacy. She works with Black Hills Works and VR. Since 2002, Cindy has been working on achieving her GED®. She has completed the process of gaining accommodation and finished three of the four subtests. She is diligently studying Algebra and Geometry. Cindy studies in class, at home, online, and squeezes in studies around her work in janitorial services and the cultural arts she works on. Cindy is also a traditional and fancy dancer; she creates her own regalia. Cindy is looking forward to finishing her GED®. She is currently training her service dog, Jack, and spending a lot of time with friends that she considers to be her family. Cindy has friendships that have lasted 30 years and that is her support system.

JORDAN

Jordan's perseverance and willingness to work hard to further her education impressed her CLCBH teachers. She had to overcome many challenges and disruptions to attain her GED® credentials. While working full-time, Jordan earned her GED® and her CNA certification. Jordan was also a mentor and a strong support to new students. Jordan received a Build Dakota scholarship to further her studies in higher education.



JEDADIAH

While Jedadiah studied at the Career Learning Center of the Black Hills, he diligently planned for an academic career studying physics and prepared to handle the math and science associated with this major. He attained his GED® and started courses in Physics at SDSM&T this summer. Jedadiah gave the CLCBH graduation speech at our summer commencement ceremony. He recently started working as a CLCBH math tutor through the federal Work Study Program.





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LESLY

Lesly is from Honduras where she graduated high school and attended 2 years of college. When she came to the United States she found that her high school and college credits were not recognized. Rather than be defeated by this, Lesly rose to the challenge of getting her GED®. She attended evening classes fitting them in around her husband and daughter and her full-time job. Even with the added challenge of English being her second language, she finished the tests and got her GED®. Lesly is now at Black Hills State University working towards her BSN. She received a scholarship and is still taking night classes and continuing to work full-time.

MIRRA

Before earning her GED® Mirra's highest education level completed was 8th grade. She overcame the challenges of self-doubt, stress, health problems, and managing her busy schedule of work and school. Mirra graduated and passed her last test right before Christmas 2023, and she couldn't believe she finally did it and got through the math! After taking her last test and passing it she went back to working full time.

Mirra is looking forward to continuing her education with our Workforce Connections Program next. She is presently thinking about pursuing a career with the police department and continues to explore other learning opportunities.



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DESTINY

Most people, from a very early age, have a dream. To be an astronaut, a fireman, a cowboy—the list is infinite. These dreams can change as we grow, due to outside influences, new experiences, choices we make, and dealing with the accompanying consequences. Dreams can also be postponed. But we cling to them, hoping, someday. Our GED® students are ordinary people with dreams, but, due to circumstances beyond their control and certain situations that must be dealt with, their dreams have been put on hold—but not forgotten. Destiny's dream is to become a nurse. Destiny came to the CLC in 2020 determined to get her GED® to start that process. She is the mother of six children, including two sets of twins! She works full-time and has faced many challenges, such as illnesses and childcare problems. Yet, Destiny never forgot or gave up on her dream. She continued to study for her GED® and recently passed her final GED® test. Now her plan is to start classes for nursing, as soon as all her children are in school. We are positive Destiny will hold her dream in her heart until it is realized. She is determined, strong, optimistic, and maybe a little stubborn!

REBEKAH

Rebekah is a very goal-oriented, determined, hard-working, and focused person. She had reading problems in her early years and later discovered she had severe dyslexia. Rebekah persevered through this challenge, finding a computer program to help her with reading. She has made great strides studying for her GED® and it won't be long before we will be seeing Rebekah with her cap, gown, and tassel! Rebekah plans to attend art school where she can develop her incredible skills in anime drawing and storytelling. Such talent! Watch for her in the future, anime lovers!





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JUAN

Juan arrived with a beginning knowledge of English and was struggling to be understood at work. After studying for several months he was promoted to a managerial position.

MYA

Mya arrived with advanced knowledge of English. Now she is choosing to continue improve her English and prepare to attend Western Dakota Technical College to get a job in finance and accounting in order to better support her families future educational goals.

