

STUDENT STORIES FROM TWO FIELD TEST PROGRAMS

The following accounts were given by a program participating in the Career Readiness Credential Field Test. The ABLE teacher/instructor recounts her experience with three different students participating in the field test.

“At the end of one four-week session, I had five students in class. I had the good fortune to issue four gold credentials to students completing the program. Three of these students were homeless. The Career Readiness Credential was a bright spot in an otherwise dismal period for these students.”

Tim was an older, somewhat disheveled job seeker. His pretest scores were seven in both Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information and a four in Locating Information. Tim was not discouraged by being out of work; rather, he became self-competitive and eagerly studied KeyTrain and other visual literacy materials. After 4 weeks his Locating Information score improved to a Level Six, and he was recognized for his exceptional intellectual talents with a gold credential. He now wears a suit to the One-Stop.

Wendy is a participant completing her One-Stop classes. In her final evaluation she states, “I was given hope for my future. When I came here I was out of hope, and very depressed. I have found out through testing that I am not stupid. I recently found out that I have ADD and am now on medication. As a child, math was impossible for me. On my medication I began to take math classes with Linda. I was shocked that I understood what she was teaching; after a few mistakes I would get it! I wish that I knew earlier about my ADD. I would have had a much more different life. When I was a kid they didn’t know what ADD was. So thank you for giving me help and hope.”

Tina is a professional writer. Due to a move and difficult times she sought public assistance. She recognized the value of the WorkKeys credential by graciously participating in classes to improve her already strong skills. She improved on the posttest and achieved the gold credential. Her credential was the first we issued. One day she frantically called wanting the certificate to take to a job interview with the county, a few days hence. The credentials were not quite ready for dissemination. One ABLE employee copied the credential while another took it to be signed by the Warren County Career Center superintendent. A One-Stop employee volunteered to take the credential to a neighboring town to be signed by the WIB president. The credential was in Tina’s hands by interview time.

Hannah needed a level 5 in [Applied Mathematics] to enter a local LPN program, and dreaded reviewing the math. She had previously tested out of the other areas needed to enter the program. She was able to regularly attend weeks of low-stress WorkKeys review classes and succeeded in achieving the [level] 5 in [Applied Mathematics]. She will make a fine nurse.

Paul was a quiet, introverted young man. He told one teacher about the low expectations his family had for him. His high WorkKeys scores surprised everyone, including him. The One-Stop workers gave him encouragement and guided him into further education and a job despite his familial influence. He was motivated to improve his Locating Information score to achieve a gold credential.

One student returned for her credential when a temp agency told her that the credential would be a nice addition to her portfolio.

Rob came in for his credential after receiving a letter in the mail. He hobbled into our third floor office to retrieve his piece of paper that obviously meant a great deal to him. He told us how his job search was on hold due to imminent back surgery to alleviate chronic pain. Rob smiled his way through four weeks of class with never a complaint, although he was suffering. He improved his score, thereby earning a higher credential. It was nice to brighten his day.

This Story Courtesy of Warren County ABLE

“I have greatly appreciated the opportunity of working in the Career Readiness study program while I study to get my GED. I’m currently taking the practice tests for my GED. I plan on entering a computer class at Butler Tech Vocational School. My goal is to get a degree in Computer Graphic Design. This program has helped me prepare for my future.”

SW

“I am very appreciative to have been able to take the WorkKeys test here in the ABLE classroom. It helped me prepare for the program I am interested in. I plan to enter the nursing program at Butler Tech Vocational School.”

HM

“I appreciated the opportunity to test with the WorkKeys. I scored 6, 5, and 7. I plan to go into an electrical apprenticeship program. This preparation let me know I am ready to get started. The practice and the help I received made a great difference.”

NH

“I have enjoyed working in the Career Readiness class. It has helped me out a great deal. Linda is a wonderful teacher. She was always willing to help. I am getting ready to take the GED test next week. I am entering the LPN program at Brown Mackie. I am very excited. I took WorkKeys twice. The first time was in March and the second was in August. I brought my math up a level. I am so proud of myself. I worked very hard and appreciated everyone’s help. WorkKeys is good to have especially when preparing for a job. Employers would like to see if you know how to use math and locating information. I am very glad I took the tests. I am sure I will need them someday.”

BT

“I am in the Career Readiness class to help me pass the WorkKeys test. I would like to go to school to become an LPN. The Work Keys will help me get myself into Butler Tech. I would like to start a new career . . . I need a career change.”

BB

This Story Courtesy of Hamilton City ABLE