

Student Success Story

Nicole James

Central Learning Adult School Site



Nicole's journey has taken her from the lowest of lows. She started early in life as a homeless youth addict where she resided in an alley. She became a single mother of two. When she applied for government assistance, Nicole became a Cal-Works student. At one point, she was residing in an outpatient transitional living facility while she was on parole. In trying to get her life back on a positive track, she continually hit roadblocks, including tattoos that were preventing her from obtaining employment.

Central Unified Adult Education (CLASS) offered career technical education in Office Professional. Nicole enrolled, completed the class, and received a clerical internship. She was so passionate about becoming a success instead of a statistic that she continued with her transition and reformation. Nicole was mentored, and she also began to mentor others. She bridged from the adult school setting to Fresno City College where she graduated with her degree. In addition, she sought services through Cal-Works and went through the painful process of having her tattoos removed in order to open avenues for employment.

Nicole attained her Associate of Science degree in Human Service Social Work and an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Social Science through Fresno City College. Nicole then transferred to Fresno Pacific University and attained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work, doing so while gainfully employed and completing an internship. Nicole is working for San Joaquin Valley Veterans as a Job Developer. She is always seeking additional opportunities to enhance her repertoire of skills to continue to serve those in her community.