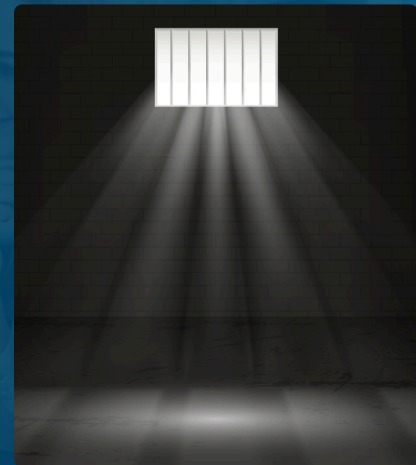




ADULT LEARNER **SUCCESS STORY**

Stories Behind the Wall | **Colorado**



My life has never been easy. I had to grow up fast and face adult situations at a very young age. When I was 11 years old, my father died by suicide, and I was the one who found his body. From that moment on, everything changed. My mom was never the same and was no longer an active parent, so I turned to the streets. Crime and death became a prominent part of my young adulthood, and I never really cared about my education.

Long story short, going in and out of prison got old. I learned that the streets only lead to two places—death or prison. The last time I got arrested may have saved my life. I was on a path of self-destruction and was prepared to kill myself if my lifestyle didn't do it first. After being arrested and booked into the Adams County Detention Facility, I enrolled in their HSE program about two weeks later. One month after that, I graduated with my HSE diploma.

Even though I am still incarcerated and have more time to serve, I refuse to let my circumstances define my future or create a false image of who I really am. The HSE program gave me the opportunity not only to further my education but also to open doors I never imagined myself walking through. Since graduating, I have continued to spend time in the HSE classroom, helping tutor other students who are preparing for their exams.

I was inspired by the success stories shared in my HSE class—stories of people who had turned their lives around—and I chose to share my own story and plans for success. When I am released, I plan to continue my education at a college or university, with hopes of becoming a counselor or mentor. My story may have started out hard and beyond my control, but with the hope and determination I now have, I can make the rest of my journey great. The possibilities for my future are endless, and I have a powerful story to share.



Lead Equip Empower

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