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December 2024

Dear Friend,

Adult education teaches that patience is powerful and relentless. This lesson does not match this moment. Our current age rewards speed, demanding fast answers to hard problems, but consider the possibilities of honoring patience…

KC arrived at PAE in 2007. A stellar student, she had left Deering High School to support her younger brother. She was working full time at McDonald's and needed a high school credential. She passed the GED exam in 6 months and wanted to go to college, but she could not afford the time or tuition cost. She returned to PAE in 2012, determined to prepare for college placement exams, which she successfully passed. In 2022, she reported that she had not yet made it to college and needed some review and guidance while applying for scholarships. Later that year, she headed to Southern Maine Community College, landed on the Dean's List, and is now on track to earn a nursing degree this year.

JD arrived at PAE in 2016, having already completed three years of microbiology and biochemistry at an international university. Placement into English language courses initially discouraged him, but he opted to start slow at PAE, excelled in every class and also on standardized tests. Through PAE's Workforce program, he completed Certified Nursing Assistant training. Thanks to his careful preparation, he won scholarships from FPAE and the Maine Community Foundation. Upon graduation from the University of Southern Maine in 2021, he earned the Bright Future in Biology Prize. Now he works as an Associate Scientist while studying Biotechnology at Northeastern University's Roux Institute. He's on his way to the graduate degree he named as his goal 8 years ago.

Neither of these students could afford school without working full time. Both of these students could have let exhaustion stifle their aspirations. Instead, they invested years educating themselves to enter careers that Maine needs. PAE offered a foundation so they could persist and thrive.

For twelve years, Friends of PAE has championed thousands of students like KC and JD. Thank you for your resolute support. Please join us once more in celebrating the dogged patience of adults determined to grow and contribute to Maine!

With deep gratitude,



Anja Hanson
Academic Advisor PAE/Vice Chair FPAE


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