

Student Success Stories



Helping Nevada adults improve basic skills and get jobs through GED, Career Pathways, Literacy, ESL, Civics, Citizenship, & Transition to Postsecondary programs. Nevada Adult Education services are federally funded through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Title II of the Workforce Investment Act. www.NevadaAdultEducation.org

Stacey the unstoppable



Stacey was beaming when she came to the Northern Nevada Literacy Council in September 2011 to show off her GED® Certificate. She wanted to make sure she thanked and hugged all those who told her not to give up. Stacey suffers from a traumatic brain injury (TBI) as a result of a car accident, and it had been a challenge for her to gain the confidence to take the GED Test.

After a series of dead-end fast food jobs, Stacey knew she needed help. She went to Nevada JobConnect in search of a career training program. They recommended that she first obtain her GED and suggested attending NNLC's Adult Basic Education and GED preparatory classes.

Stacey hit the books running in July 2010. The attention she received from NNLC instructors helped her to focus on her weak academic subjects. She acknowledged that the TBI "gives me a bit of an understanding disability." Without the help and understanding from NNLC instructors and staff, she felt she would have had a hard time completing all the GED subjects, especially the math segment.

She did not pass the test the first time through, but that did not deter her. Stacey returned to NNLC where she continued to hone her skills so she could take the test again.

With the confidence gained through her work at NNLC and with the recommendation of JobConnect, Stacey entered the postsecondary ABA Training Center's Warehouse Career Program, which included OSHA certifications for Forklift Training and Safe Material Handling and Storage. Stacey completed the trainings in July and August 2011 and passed the GED Test with flying colors shortly after. She is currently interviewing for warehouse positions and is hoping to enter the field soon. She is somewhat nervous because of her lack of experience but she feels confident because of her recent training.

Stacey is unlikely to stop there! Encouraged by her husband and NNLC staff, she plans to explore some of the accelerated classes offered by Truckee Meadows Community College. NNLC fully expects to see her again, proudly showing additional evidence of her success!

"Everyone here at NNLC understood and helped me. When I didn't pass the GED the first time, they told me 'don't give up.' Mike Cronmiller and Dave Weeks coached me through the math so I remembered how to solve the division and fraction questions. They did such a great job!"

CSN helps Martha help others

Martha Odele, her husband, and two children came to Las Vegas from Jinja, Uganda by way of Tijuana, Mexico. In Tijuana, she attended a leadership school sponsored by Youth With A Mission (YWAM), a worldwide inter-denominational missionary organization with which she has worked for eight years. After completing her training in Tijuana, the family was sent to Las Vegas.

From Las Vegas, the family was set to return to Africa when the financial arrangements for the trip fell through. "I knew that I needed to do something. If I wasn't going home, I decided to go to school."

Martha researched her options on the Internet. She looked into high school diploma programs and along the way learned of the GED®. "I made so many calls to so many places to get information. I called College of Southern Nevada's GED program and they told me they were going to register students in just a few days." Martha attended the registration and — to her surprise — was placed into the accelerated GED program.



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In his own words: From homeless through hope to higher ed

Editor's note: The scholarship application below was written in February 2011.

I want to tell you about a person that I know who is truly an inspiration to me. He is 52 years old, and he is accomplishing goals to better his life. He is proof that you are never too old to succeed and better your lifestyle and your future. I know that he is determined to achieve his goals in life and that he "never gives up."

My friend has been jobless since August of 2008 and is currently homeless. This has been very challenging for him, especially through these cold, frigid nights and sometimes equally cold and frigid days. One good thing that he has going for him is that he owns a 1977 Chevy pick-up truck with an all-metal camper shell on it; this he refers to as his "home on wheels." He has no heat, because the truck's gas is usually low or almost empty, but at least it is a roof over his head — temporary, of course, until a job and an apartment come into play.

It was under these conditions (jobless and homeless) that my friend decided to return to school to obtain his GED®. While taking the intense, six-week GED Boot Camp course at Western Nevada College, he had an accident on his bicycle, suffering a concussion, nine stitches in his eyebrow, a black eye, and a broken big toe. However, he was determined, and he still attended the classes.

Although it took him three attempts to pass the math part, on December 22, 2010, his persistence paid off and he passed all parts of the GED examination. It was the most important, and only, Christmas gift he received, but it was the best gift that he could have asked for.

After passing the GED exam, he applied for and received a Pell grant to continue his education. He enrolled at Western Nevada College, and he is currently taking two computer classes and two machine-tool-technology classes. He is enjoying the classes, and he is doing well in them, and I think that the courses will help him tremendously towards having a career and finding a

good paying job.

This is my friend's first experience with college. His parents did not complete a college education. I can already see a difference in him. I see him job hunt and attend school like he's a different person — for the better, of course. To be able to attend college is a dream which my friend did not realize could come true for him. It has brought hope into his life; the hope that he can create a brighter future for himself.

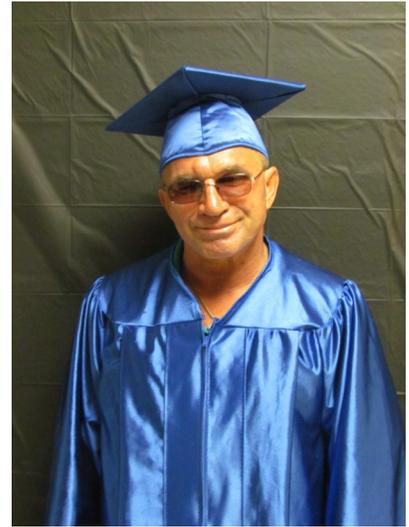
In conclusion, I am proud to tell you that I am the person that I am writing about. My name is Wayne Mauer, and this is my story. I hope that with a scholarship, I will be able to continue my education and create a brighter future for myself. I hope that whoever is reading this essay, will take into consideration the importance that receiving this scholarship will have on my ability to do this. Thank you for your time and interest.

The rest of the story

Wayne passed the machine tool and computer classes in spring 2011, photography and conversation Spanish classes in the fall, and is enrolled in art classes for spring 2012. He is celebrating nearly a year of sobriety and more than 300 days without smoking. He works out at Gold's Gym six days a week and carries a little pocket notebook to document his healthy choices.

He is no longer homeless. "I feel like a king," he said of his guest house, rented from a woman he met in the photography class. He pays rent, defrayed by money he earns doing handyman work on the property.

Wayne did receive that \$250 scholarship and receives a Pell grant each semester, as well.



CSN helps Martha *(Continued from page 1)*

She attended class on Saturdays for seven weeks. "That GED XL class was really perfect for me. My teacher, Glenn Mungcal, was amazing! He was always there for me. The one-on-one tutoring sessions were very helpful. Sometimes I would email Glenn questions during the week and he always got right back to me."

While attending the GED XL class, Martha earned a National Career Readiness Certificate through CSN's Division of Workforce and Economic Development. In early December 2011, Martha received her GED.

Martha is grateful: "I want to thank you all for providing this class. I thank my husband. He really supported me. He pushed me to keep on and he took care of the children." And she wants to do more: "I would like to go to college to study economics. I would like to study the economics of Africa — Africa has so many resources and at the same time is so poor. I would like to help."