



Career Resources Success Story

*Clarence Brimley Jr.
Adult Education*



Even as a teenager, Clarence Brimley Jr. enjoyed learning, and liked the classroom setting too.

But getting kicked out of high school amidst a family move in eleventh grade sent him off track for a number of years.

Mr. Brimley, now 28, passed the rigorous General Equivalency Diploma exam in November after studying for three months at Career Resources. He had held several jobs, and served 18 months in prison for drug possession, when he saw a flyer for the program at the Alternative Incarceration Center in Bridgeport, where he was working with a case manager and looking for work.

"I had always wanted to go back, so I said, there's no time like the present," Mr. Brimley said.

At Career Resources, the individualized instruction combined well with his life experience to motivate him and help him succeed. The program offers a flexible schedule, where students can come at various daytime hours to suit their needs, and a personalized assessment and lesson plan.

"I tried so many times before to go back to school, but stuff just kept happening," he said. "Ms. Lee, my teacher, saw my weaknesses and pinpointed them. I loved writing, and she saw that—and I needed more structure, and she helped me with that too.

"I'd have to say I'm a much better student now than I was in the past," he added. "I realized no one's going to do this for me. I stopped blaming other people and realized I had to change if I wanted my life to change."

His plans now include further vocational training in computer repair, and eventually more school and the ministry.

"I liked the class very much," Mr. Brimley said. "I liked studying and I liked helping others. Now, I want to put myself in the position where I can continue to learn."

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"I tried so many times before to go back to school."

***~Clarence Brimley, Jr.,
GED diploma holder***

Career Resources is a non-profit helping workers to succeed in life. Our programs include STRIVE, Fathers for Life, an Alternative Incarceration Center for Women, job placement for ex-offenders, and operation of the One Stop Career Center, offering job placement and training in 20 southwestern Connecticut towns.

For information, please call 203-334-5627 or visit www.careerresources.org. Funding for Adult Education is provided by the Charter Oak Challenge Foundation.