

The Success Story of Deja Green



Deja Green is a married mother of 4 children living in Helena Arkansas, who was on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as Food Stamps. Deja's last employment was at the Belleville Shoe Manufacturing in 2019 and her husband had recently been discharged from his job.

Deja came into the Helena Workforce Center looking for help, she was in dire need of finding a career that would allow her to better provide for her family long term and not just day-to-

day. Career Advisor and Deja discussed some services and what could be provided to her under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Deja was approved for the WIOA Adult program in December 2020. Deja stated that her goal is to find a career that would not only allow her to become self-sufficient but also be an example for her kids.

Deja's work experience consisted of Manufacturing and Fast-Food jobs, but her dream career was to work in an office environment. Deja started WIOA Work Experience program on December 21, 2020, at the Helena Workforce Center as an Office Clerk, in the middle of a pandemic and being one of the only Workforce Centers open to the public, Deja played a key role assisting staff with serving clients with unemployment benefits, employment and other workforce needs. The Workforce Center Office Manager, Mrs. Delois Hare, stated the following about Deja:

"I've had the pleasure of watching this young lady grow and blossom over the past 6 months. She has set the bar high for herself and for others to follow. Deja is a dedicated public

servant who does not mind taking on challenges in the workplace. Hard work does not scare her.”

Over the period of her work experience at the Workforce Center, Deja did not go a day without improving her administrative and customer service skills. With her new skills and confidence in herself and her abilities, Deja applied for numerous Administrative Assistant positions and received several jobs offers. In May 2021, Deja accepted a Full-Time Administrative Assistant position with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services'. Her first day of employment was June 02, 2021, making \$14.00 an hour and working 40 hours a week with benefits for her family.

Deja wanted to submit a statement of her appreciation:

“The WIOA program is wonderful. Before the program, I worked jobs that were not fulfilling for many years. I always desired more and had a plan. The problem with my plan, I did not have the key tools for this plan. My life changed when I was accepted into the WIOA program represented by Sterling Washington. Mr. Washington put me in a work setting with a wonderful staff. The experience was so motivational. Today, I have a job where I can thrive, and I can see myself doing until I retire. I am so grateful for being able to participate in the WIOA program.”