
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: CASSIE

WSA 17 – STEARNS-BENTON EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING COUNCIL

Cassie



Cassie earned a Human Services Practitioner Associate in Applied Science Degree and proudly displays her degree folder after graduation from Alexandria Technical and Community College.

I always knew what I wanted to do when I grew up. I wanted to help those who were disabled, elderly or both. Ever since my junior year, I knew I wanted to attend Alexandria Technical and Community College and work toward becoming a Designated Coordinator through the Human Services Practitioner program. But just knowing what you want to do with your life doesn't make it happen. I knew I had to work hard for it. I kept my attendance and grades up at school and worked two jobs to save money.

I began searching for scholarships and programs to help me afford the cost of schooling to become a Designated Coordinator. My high school guidance counselor suggested that I apply for the WIA Youth Program available through Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council in St. Cloud. Not long after I applied, I learned I was eligible for the program! I met with a Career Planner and she helped me in planning my career goals, my budget for postsecondary school, and guidance on course selections. She always gave me much needed support throughout my secondary and postsecondary education. The

WIA Youth Program helped me with books, supplies, some support services and outstanding tuition costs. Without the guidance of my Career Planner and the WIA support I needed to get me through my schooling, I may not have been able to remain in school.

While finishing my last semester at school, I balanced a full-time job and full-time school which was hard work, but it paid off. I graduated in 2012 from the Human Services Practitioner Program at Alexandria Technical and Community College. I couldn't have accomplished so much without the help of my Career Planner and the WIA Youth Program supports.