
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: KRIS

WSA 10 - Minneapolis Employment and Training



Kris enrolled in HIRED's Year Round WIA Youth Employment Program in November 2012. He was 20 years old, homeless, a high school dropout, unemployed, and trying to figure things out on his own. At intake, Kris mentioned that one of his goals was to be a chef because that would be a way to make people feel good; by having their food prepared by someone who loves cooking.

In December 2012, while working with the HIRED counselor, Kris completed his resume. This served as a great visual for him; to see his accomplishments on one page. As he reflected on his resume and after several discussions with the HIRED counselor, a flame was ignited in him.

Kris completed his GED certificate in February 2013. That same month the HIRED counselor enrolled him in the Culinary Arts Program with Pillsbury United Communities. He graduated in April 2013 with his Safe Serve certificate in Culinary. On culinary graduation day Kris mentioned to the HIRED counselor that this was the happiest he has ever been and he never thought he would see this type of success. In March 2013, Kris received his Personal Care Assistant certificate from the Department of Human Services and moved into his own place. In May 2013, the HIRED counselor was able to get Kris into Dakota County Technical College's Basic Forklift Training where he earned a certificate.

Following Kris' success in partnering with HIRED and receiving his GED and training certificates, he has been able to hold down several jobs and use the skills he received from forklift and culinary training. He had no problem getting employment as a cook at Boston Market, as an assembly/delivery person at Sofo Furniture, as a shift printer at Elpis Printing and as a food server at Earle Brown Catering. Kris is now proudly enrolled at Minneapolis Community & Technical College where he is studying his passion, Culinary Arts.

Kris has learned so much about the benefits of giving back to the community. He serves as a role model with weekly visits to the YouthLink kitchen to help feed the homeless youth there. Kris says, "It's hard when you don't have anyone to turn to. However, when given the opportunity, it can change your life." Kris will fulfill his dream of having his own restaurant. Kris gives back to the community, manages his housing situation, works 20 plus hours a week and continues his dream of higher education, and looking to graduate in June 2016. In his words, "I needed the right help to find the right path and I did with my HIRED counselor."

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