



JUNE WIA News From Kim

June 2009

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CONGRATULATIONS!! YOU DID IT!!

I am so happy with all of you and this huge accomplishment.

A huge round of applause to the following students:

Shandi A., Michael A., Carol D., Michael E., Christina G.,
Tim H., Megan K., Clarence J., Steven M., David O., Amber P.,
Tabby R., Nia R., Ellen S., Jessica S., Dara W., Ashley W.

Don't Forget.....

JUNE 21ST



Kim's "I hope you are listening" lecture.

Years ago, when I decided to go back to school and receive my bachelor's degree, I wrote a short article in order to obtain a scholarship. Here is a copy of the article. Remember, to reach for your goals....nothing is ever too far away.

Until I turned 37, I was never able to answer the question "What do I want to be when I grow up?" I had dreams of becoming a schoolteacher as a child, this due to the fact that my father and grandmother were both teachers. I remember how grown up and important I felt when they allowed me to help them grade papers.

I was not an excellent student, but I tried. In my senior year of high school I got pregnant. After much thought and a lot of tears, I decided to quit school and work full time to pay for the costs of the pregnancy as I was uninsured at the time. I worked hard, paid my bills and delivered a beautiful baby boy. I worked a few minimum wage paying jobs and realized I was going nowhere with my life. I woke up one morning and decided I needed a change. I quit my job, left the city and moved to a small rural area. I was openly greeted by these town folk. I moved into a mobile home; hung sheets up for curtains, never had a dish or piece of silverware that matched and the furniture was used and dented, but they were mine.

I made a phone call that changed the rest of my life. I called the Adult Basic Learning Lab. I knew my first step to a brighter future was getting my GED. I was scared but the teachers made me feel welcome. After a brief review, I took my test and passed with flying colors. YEAH, now I can move on to the next phase of my life, college. I put myself through college with the help of financial aid, bartending and lots of babysitters. Two years later, I proudly stood on stage accepting my Associates Degree. Things went rather smoothly from here. I married a wonderful man, had two more children and landed a decent job. I even moved out of the trailer and into a real home with a basement.

SHOW ME
THE
MONEY!!!

I am happy to let
you know that you
will be receiving a
check for _____



What is so great about teens?

We are fun

We are energetic

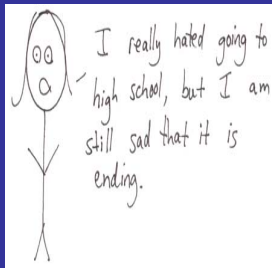
We are the future

We are open minded

We listen

We are playful

We have potential



Apprenticeship

Rates of pay vary, but average starting wage is about \$11.00 an hour

You must have a high school diploma or GED to qualify for most programs

Ohio State Apprentice
4020 East 5th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43219
(614) 644-0370
Give them a call with any questions!

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WIA Youth Coordinator
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In 2000, my loving grandmother passed away. I took on the responsibility of cleaning out her apartment in the retirement center in which she had lived. That week was the week that changed my life forever. I found myself sitting in the lobby talking with the elderly folks about their childhood, marriages, children or just sitting and holding hands with each other. I found that a touch on the hand or a hug made their day. I went home to my family at the end of this week and cried. I had finally found myself and realized what I want to do with my life. I was put here to help others not as fortunate as myself. I decided to go back to school to get my Bachelor's degree so that I can one day operate or manage a home for the elderly or sick.

Well as life goes, days turn into weeks and weeks turn into months. The dream of college is still here, but there is never enough time to enroll.

Summer of 2002, my father starts behaving quite bizarre. We find him outside in his underwear, he can't seem to complete sentences, can't remember how to turn off the car and he is angry all the time. This is the most brilliant man I have ever known, what could possibly be happening to him? All of a sudden, his life is crumbling around him. After two weeks in the hospital and what seems like hundreds of tests later, we are told that he has dementia problems. I struggle trying to find help for my father. I am referred from one Social Service agency to another. Either he is too young or his wife makes just over the poverty level for any help. I find a wonderful woman who will watch him during the day and ensures that he eats his lunch and takes his medication. This woman is an angel.

This trauma brings up all the thoughts from a couple of years ago about wanting to work with people. THIS IS IT; I will not procrastinate any longer. I enroll at the local college and am currently enrolled in Management/Ethics to get my Bachelor of Arts Degree. My dreams are of either running a nursing home or starting a companion home for people with medical conditions or elderly lonely people. I have the strength, desire and attitude to make this happen. Unfortunately, I do not have the money. I have applied for financial aid and am asking relatives for help. I live paycheck to paycheck and I am leery of taking out too many student loans as another bill each month would have a huge impact on our monthly budgeting.

Please review my application for your scholarship. Your mission is serving the community. I too agree with this and would like to use my education to serve the small community in which I live.

I wanted to share this to show that you can make it. My life was not always easy and I struggled a lot. While working full time, taking care of my family and with little to no sleep due to studying, I finally received my bachelor's degree. I absolutely love my job.... working with each and every one of you, but the desire is still strong within me to open a home for the elderly or sick. Who knows what the future may hold. In the meantime, I take one day at a time and continue to push myself to reach my goals. As always, if anyone has a problem, wants to talk or needs some advice, please don't hesitate to ever give me a call. Kim

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