

# SUCCESS STORIES

## America's Promise Grants

### NORTHERN WYOMING COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

#### Educating Toward Economic Diversity

#### — PARTICIPANT SUCCESS —

One of our participants, a working single parent, was balancing a job and school when she decided to reduce her work hours to accommodate the rigor of her studies. The potential income loss was of great concern. A faculty member referred her to the America's Promise grant, where her enrollment garnered her tuition assistance and intensive support from Northern Wyoming Community College District's (NWCCD) grant-funded case manager.

The case manager referred her to a contact at Workforce Services for possible assistance in applying for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant funds and other funding opportunities. She was also referred to area healthcare providers (for substitute-status employment that would be flexible around her childcare needs while applying for permanent employment). The services provided by the America's Promise grant allowed our participant to find balance between her job and her education. She will be completing her Associate degree in Human Services at the close of the Spring 2019 semester. She is pursuing Wyoming's required licensure through the Professional Teaching Standards Board to qualify for substitute teacher status while continuing to advance her academic and professional goals.

#### — PARTICIPANT SUCCESS —

Tasha is a beacon of hope. Following the loss of a child, she succumbed to a drug addiction and criminal charges following domestic troubles, resulting in incarceration. Tasha previously attended the University of Montana but ended up defaulting on her student loans due to her imprisonment. Clean and sober for nine years, Tasha is proactively rebuilding her life, actively working with the Gillette Abuse Refuge Foundation and the Council of Community Services while completing her Associate of Arts in Social Science with a Certificate in Addictions Practitioner (due to be completed by December 2019). Her goal upon completing her training is to become an Addictions Rehabilitation Case Worker.

Among the various barriers she faced was a challenge in paying for her education, which the America's Promise grant has helped by covering her tuition and fees for classes and will continue to provide support with licensing/certification. Over the course of her education she has applied for various scholarships and either not received them or not heard back on her application. Her grant-funded case manager has advocated for Tasha and connected her to supportive services in the area. The grant has enabled Tasha to aggressively pursue an education that will enable her to have a successful and rewarding career.

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Source: Northern Wyoming Community College District stock photo

The Educating Toward Economic Diversity (ETED) Partnership is successfully addressing the targeted populations at-risk of discontinuing their educational programs due to barriers in attaining training and employment. Intake requirements developed at the beginning of the grant-funded period prioritized participants to self-identify their population to qualify for services, which is verified prior to the dispersal of funds. Though some students served by the ETED Partnership are identified as having more than one barrier to training and employment the predominant at-risk population is low income; as of Q4 2018 53% of all participants identified as low income.



### — ADDITIONAL RESOURCES —

- ★ **Slideshow – [Case Management Training](#)** walks through the elements of case management and the role of the case manager. The information will help staff motivate the customer, build rapport, and understand the difference between helping and empowering.
- ★ **Resource – [Prioritizing Services for those Most in Need: Low Income and Disadvantaged](#)** offers multiple written resources on increasing service levels and maximizing impact.