



Student Success: Vanessa

ACES Academy Alpena

Before Vanessa joined Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) she had struggled academically, faced troubles in her home life and had significant interactions with the criminal justice system. Yet with the support of her JMG specialist, AJ, Vanessa worked hard to overcome her barriers. She became the president of the JMG Career Association and eventually graduated from ACES Academy in the top 5% of her class.

Barriers

- Was economically disadvantaged
- First generation high school graduate
- Had low academic performance
- Was involved in the criminal justice system

Successes

- Maintained a job at Burger King and was promoted to manager
- Became president of the JMG Career Association
- Attended the JAG National Student Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C.
- Graduated in the top 5% of her class
- Was the first member of her family to graduate from high school
- Attends Alpena Community College and earned all A's and B's her first semester

In her own words:

The JMG program has given me the steps to be successful. I am now the only person in my family to graduate high school. I am also the only one to go to college.