

ANDRE LAMARR MCELMURRY

Nominated by: Shawnee Development Council, Inc

Case Manager: Tiana Reeves

Andre Lamarr McElmurry was the 42 year old divorced father of 6 sons, 5 of whom were under the age of 18, when he came to Shawnee Development Council in December of 2013. Lamarr was a Marine Corp veteran and had been unemployed for six year. He was finding it very hard to return to the workforce and was surviving with the assistance of food stamps and a medical card. He needed to overcome several barriers including a period of incarceration and he just needed someone to give him a chance to prove himself.



Because Lamarr had driven trucks in the past he thought this would be a field he could enter for training and return to work quickly. Since it had been 12 years since he had driven, he needed training to brush up on his skills and the latest regulations for truck drivers. He entered the 16 week truck driving program at Shawnee Community College in Ullin on January 13, 2014

It soon became apparent to the truck driving coordinator and instructors that Lamarr could handle a truck exceptionally well. He was one of the best students to come though the program and was helpful to other students as well.

When Lamarr completed his training the program coordinator approached him with the idea that he should apply for a job as an instructor at the college. This was an opportunity beyond his dreams and would provide everything he needed to move forward and away from the trappings of poverty. Lamarr was interviewed by the college and was hired as a truck instructor on July 8, 2014, at a wage of \$15 per hour. He has maintained this employment and is doing very well.

Lamarr's story serves as an encouragement to those who are facing obstacles to overcome that it can be done. He is living proof. Lamarr praises God for his success because without Him none of this would be possible. Lamarr also thanks case manager Tiana Reeves and the WIA staff for believing in him and providing this opportunity.

Congratulations Lamarr on your hard work, initiative and success!

Authorization to Release Information

I, Andre Lamarr McElmurry hereby authorize any State of Illinois department, Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, any contracted service provider or agency benefiting from or contributing to my activities to use information regarding my involvement with programs delivered through the workforce/economic development system. Information which may be used includes, but is not limited to, the written summary of achievements; awards banquet videotape; and photographs. These materials may be used in publications, award nominations and/or on the Internet. I hereby waive any claim arising out of such release, dissemination or use. Information, videotape, and photographs shall not be used for any for-profit commercial purposes.

Andre McElmurry
Signature

11/5/14
Date