

BridgeValley

# SUCCESS STORIES



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After high school, I found myself on the traditional college journey of most students like me who grew up in West Virginia and attended a four-year university right after graduation. It wasn’t exactly what I imagined, though -- I found myself struggling to find the right major and lacked the support I needed to be successful at that time. I knew that this wasn’t the right path for me.

Fast forward 10 years later: the desire to earn a degree had never left my heart. So I applied to BridgeValley Community and Technical College for a 2+2 program because I knew the college was flexible and affordable. I became involved in multiple student organizations, including Student Government Association, through which I currently serve as the student body president. Being involved on campus has helped me develop many of the soft skills needed for leadership positions in the workforce and helped me make friends and meaningful connections with my peers.

College isn’t easy -- it’s especially challenging when you work full-time and are a single parent of a four-year-old. It would be easy for me to say, “life is too busy to complete my education.” But I’m glad to say that I can’t give up -- I have a support system at BridgeValley that won’t allow me to.

**My advice to my fellow students at BridgeValley, especially those who feel like they’re struggling, is to take advantage of the college’s many student services – tutoring, counseling, campus life, TANF, NEST, etc.**

These services are there to support you and can change the course of your education and your life. So many students aren’t even aware of all of the grants and scholarship programs they could benefit from. Take me for an example! I am leaving college with a degree and no debt at all.

After I graduate with my Paralegal Studies degree, I plan to begin my next chapter by pursuing my bachelor’s degree at a four-year university. My goal is to work on legislation promoting equitable access to healthcare in WV.

Remember, life doesn’t go as planned sometimes. But the most important thing to remember is to get back on track when you can. I was ready, and by choosing to attend BridgeValley, I have found my path!

**- Alex Kyle Harris,  
Paralegal Studies**