

BridgeValley

SUCCESS STORIES



I thought I would never be able to go to college and do well due to my disability, but I thought BridgeValley would be a great fit for me and I proved myself wrong by working hard in and out of the classroom and taking advantage of the extra help offered to BridgeValley students.



Ashley Lewis and Emilee Hughes gave me great advice when I first enrolled. They helped me through a lot of doubts and dark times when I thought I couldn't do school anymore and was experiencing personal hardships. Because of them, I was able to break that stigma and overcome myself. They never gave up on me and allowed me to have an event at BridgeValley to help educate others on students with different disabilities. It shed light on these students and encouraged everyone to treat them fairly.

In addition to Professors Lewis and Hughes, the Student Success Center, counseling and disability services at BridgeValley have contributed to my success as a student. I've also experienced many adventures through the Paradigm Pioneers and the family I've made along my educational journey.

There are so many nice people who are caring and amazing at this college and I'm so happy to be part of the BridgeValley family.

After graduating last fall, I enrolled at Marshall University where I'm a psychology major. I hope to become a special needs psychologist for children and teens. I always tell people who are struggling to never let their barriers get in the way and to break and overcome those barriers every day. There will always be more barriers waiting, but fight against them and say, 'I got this and I can do the impossible.'

**- Lauren Easter,
HSRS Youth Development, 2018**