

Testimony of Julie Morrison

House Commerce Committee, HB 2381

March 4, 2015

Mr. Chairman:

I'm Julie Morrison from Salina, Kansas. When I received the letter about attending the Partners 4 Success informational meeting I wasn't sure what to expect, but had nothing to lose. Even though I had been receiving Food Assistance for a couple months, I felt hopeless and lost, unsuccessful at finding a job, and running out of money. All I needed was a break and opportunities because I did not want to live on assistance. I had hoped to refine my employment skills but got so much more out of the intensive 6 week course. I now have a job, making a livable wage, with benefits and opportunity to advance. I now have hope for my future and think this program is invaluable for others in my situation on assistance.

I will read my reflection that we all wrote at the end of class as a personal look back at what we gained from the experience.

When I look back six weeks ago to the day I was starting this class, I was skeptical about what I would get out of the experience. My hope was to end the class with an updated resume and job possibilities. I also thought it would be a good way to make some contacts in the work force. Little did I know then how this class would be life changing for me. I'm not sure where I would be right now if I hadn't participated in Partners 4 Success, but I'm certain it wouldn't be a positive place like it is now, full of possibilities and hope for my future.

I've learned a lot about myself, my abilities, my strengths, and even the areas of my life that need improvement. I leave this class with more self-awareness, knowledge, and friends. I never thought six weeks ago that I would be graduating with a job and also other employment options. I find it profound that on this day of graduation, I also received my first paycheck in a very long time. I'm so proud to say I am a member of the first Partners 4 Success class and that I committed to improving myself and stuck with it, even when it was difficult. I'm sure that my parents would be proud and pleased with my achievements too. I'm grateful to the staff of the Salina Adult Education Center and DCF for supporting me, encouraging me, and having faith in me when I had lost faith in myself. I will never forget this experience.

