



Achieving Employment: Non-Traditional Paths to Success



publication date: 03/2013

Arizona is a young state. One in four residents is under 18, and their numbers continue to grow, varying widely in ethnicity, disability, and career plans. Yet all have an important role in Arizona's economic future. However, this state's education and training opportunities are often criticized for not meeting these diverse needs or properly preparing the next generation to become leaders in Arizona's economic growth. With so much criticism, it is easy to lose sight of the many successes. Following are two brief stories among thousands of how perseverance and vision, as well as individualized training and public education have assured success for these individuals, as well as, for Arizona's economic future.

Sean Storrs, Constituent Communications Coordinator Office of the President, Arizona State University



Sean has worked with constituents in the Office of the President at Arizona State University for the past seven years. A world traveler, he has visited six countries since high school. From a young age, Sean has been part of Arizona's special education system where he was afforded accommodations in educational testing, classes, and physical accommodations during his studies due to a disability and, from the 4th grade on, he attended classes with his able-bodied peers. After high school, he received the President's Scholarship for Maricopa Community Colleges and went on to Arizona State University to complete a Bachelor's degree in Interpersonal Communication. While in college, he enrolled in the state's vocational rehabilitation system, which provides

job training, assistance, and assistive devices for people with disabilities. Sean was also a goodwill ambassador for United Cerebral Palsy and worked in Circle K's public relations and human resources departments for twelve years. Today, Sean is successful in the fast-paced environment of the President's office, owns his own condo in Tempe, and is in the process of planning his next world tour.

ASU Morrison Institute
for Public Policy

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



Kendra Auga, Entrepreneur, Owner and Operator Lash Out Beauty



At 18, Kendra is unique. A freshman college student with aspirations to become a pediatric occupational therapist (OT), she is also an entrepreneur with a growing beauty business in Gilbert. When she was a high school freshman, she never believed she would have her own business at such a young age, but she took non-traditional routes, allowing her to realize her goals. She attended a public high school, but quickly grew tired of the environment. Surrounded by drugs, partying, and bad influences, she chose a different route. She elected to attend a trade school (East Valley Institute of Technology) in her sophomore year, to learn the beauty trade – a long-time area of interest. She attended the trade school during the day and completed her high school

classes on-line, allowing her to graduate high school a year early and open her own business. Within a year her shop is already producing a profit. She loves what she does and plans to continue operating her business after becoming an OT.