



AGE: 18

LOCATION:
Vero Beach, FL

Celebrating Success and Transforming Lives.

The Eckerd Connects Success Award recognizes individuals who have overcome adversity, demonstrated resilience, and achieved remarkable success through their involvement with Eckerd Connects programs. These inspiring stories showcase the transformative impact of our programs in empowering individuals to overcome obstacles and build a brighter future.

ASHLEY

"I live in a household of seven including me. Money is tight these days. Even with everyone in my household working, we are still struggling to make ends meet... Once I secure my High School Diploma, I plan to attend the culinary arts program at Indian River State College to pursue a culinary degree."

Ashley had to drop out of traditional high school due to an unstable home life and to care for siblings. Yet this determined 18-year-old refused to let circumstances define her. She entered the CareerSource Research Coast Youth Connections powered by Eckerd Connects, seeking help on her career path. This Eckerd Connects program provides access to services and activities that connect youth to jobs and college. The Eckerd Connects' Team successfully placed Ashley in an internship at a local restaurant as a Prep Station Chef, and she is gaining experience in the food industry. With encouragement from her Career Coach, Ashley began working on her GED diploma and passed three of four test sections. Soon she will take her final GED exam and then plans to attend culinary school at Treasure Coast Technical College.

Ashley has excelled despite facing challenges. She applied for the Eckerd Connects' Success Award in hopes of obtaining two things to truly launch her career and was delighted to win the award.

"Receiving a knife set and laptop will allow me to achieve my culinary goals. I see a brilliant future ahead of me. It is with gratitude and appreciation that I accept the Eckerd Connects' Success Award. I am thankful for the generosity that has been provided for me. I hope that somewhere in the future I can pay forward the program's kindness to help someone in need just like me."

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SUCCESS AWARD:

Your support can make a difference in the lives of individuals striving for success. Consider making a contribution to the Eckerd Connects Success Award to help us continue our mission of transforming lives. Visit our donation page to contribute and make a positive impact today.

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