

# KEEP Success

S T O R I E S

everyday people and their remarkable achievements

## Brett Sexton:

### Helping Hand Leads to a Helping Profession

*Brett Sexton knew* she wanted to graduate college and begin a career in the “helping profession.” She also knew that without some help, she would have to struggle to juggle a part-time job and a full-time education.

Thanks to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Program, Brett got the support she needed to remain a full-time student and earn her bachelor’s degree. But graduation was not the end of her WIA experience; it was only the beginning.

Today, Brett sits on the other side of the desk as a WIA career adviser at the Perry County JobSight operated by the L.K.L.P. Community Action Council. Brett works in the Youth Achieve Program, a new component of the WIA Youth Program that helps 18- to 21-year-old drug offenders get back on the right track toward an education or employment.

“We want to be good mentors for them,” Brett says. “They’re going to get to meet people in the community, and we’ll help them find employment. We really want to offer them a second chance.”

Brett says she knows what it is like to need support and help. In 2003, Brett—then 21—had already earned an associate’s degree in arts at the Whitesburg Campus of Southeast Community and Technical College. To take her education to the next level, she would have to enroll in Eastern Kentucky University’s social services program offered through Hazard Community and Technical College, and face the high costs of a daily commute from rural Letcher County to campus.

Through WIA, Brett received supportive services that covered the gas and food expenses related to her last four semesters of college.

In addition to assisting teens and young adults with education-related expenses, the WIA Youth Program also places participants in public and private sector jobs with local employers that match their interests and



*Brett Sexton*

allow them to earn a paycheck as they learn valuable career skills. The program also provides a broad array of year-round services including: tutoring, study skills, alternative schooling, leadership development, mentoring, guidance and counseling.

The L.K.L.P. Community Action Council delivers WIA programs in Knott County under contract with the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc. (EKCEP). The L.K.L.P. Community Action Council office in Hindman is also an access point for the JobSight network, a collaborative partnership of workforce and training agencies administered by EKCEP.

Bobbie Slone, Brett’s WIA career adviser, says Brett’s success did not take her by surprise.

To share your WIA success stories in future issues of EKCEP Success Stories, contact Michael Cornett at EKCEP, 606-436-5751 or e-mail him at [mcornett@ekcep.org](mailto:mcornett@ekcep.org)

“She was an excellent student, and she always did all of the projects and activities that our program had to offer,” Bobbie says. “You can just tell that some of our participants will go places, and she is one of those who I knew would succeed.”

*“I’m glad WIA helped me get the opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives.”*

Brett earned a bachelor’s degree in social services in December, 2005 and was hired to work at L.K.L.P. less than two months later. Brett says finally working in the “helping profession” is the realization of a dream. Being able to help people through the agency that once helped her makes the situation even better, she says.

“I love it,” Brett says of both her career and her place of employment. “I’m glad WIA helped me get the opportunity to make a difference in people’s lives.”

**Successful**  
T H O U G H T S

“I have learned that there is no failure in competing, or in life, as long as you keep moving. It’s about refusing to be stopped.”  
— Amby Burfoot

For more than 35 years, EKCEP—the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program, Inc.—has served 23 mountain counties in eastern Kentucky with workforce development, training, and employment programs to meet the region’s changing needs.

EKCEP operates the JobSight network of workforce centers, where more than a dozen state and federal employment and training programs are gathered under one roof to meet the needs of eastern Kentucky’s job seekers and employers.

EKCEP also administers programs that deliver tiered levels of services—including assistance with tuition and books—to adults, dislocated workers, and economically disadvantaged young people under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA). Delivered through the JobSight network, these WIA programs use a wide variety of resources to help customers advance their careers.

For more information on what EKCEP’S WIA programs can do for you, visit [www.ekcep.org](http://www.ekcep.org), contact your local JobSight location, or e-mail EKCEP’s central office at [ekcep@ekcep.org](mailto:ekcep@ekcep.org).

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