

# BRIAN FOSTER

## Central Nine Adult Education Success Story



Brian hit the ground running once he decided he was going to join our online HSE program. Carol and I just guided him along the way. It was incredible to witness his determination once he realized he had what it takes to accomplish his educational goals.

- LaDawn Weston, HSE Online Manager

**M**y name is Brian Foster and I'm 34 years old. I was born in Sacramento, California and lived there until I was 5 years old, when my mother and I moved to Indianapolis, IN to start new. I did ok in school; my grades were never perfect, but I seemed to have a good grasp on learning. My problem was that I was stubborn, undisciplined, and cried for attention. This eventually led me to drop out of school because I just didn't care. I spent a few years hopping from job to job, whatever someone was willing

to give me. Eventually, I started dabbling on the side with videography and photography. It was a hobby at first but shortly turned into my full-time career. It gave me an outlet and an income, which was something I needed greatly.

I had two daughters by the time I was 30. With my partner, I was able to buy a house in Greenwood, IN, with the thought of giving my girls a better chance than I had, in a better environment. One day, I caught myself preaching to my oldest daughter about how important an education is, and how knowledge is power, and that's when I knew I had to lead by example. I was going to get my high school diploma, or at least look into it.

I began looking for schools and I came across Central Nine. Sign-up was so easy. Before I knew it, I was introduced to the program warmly by the HSE Online Manager. She was friendly, informative, and very encouraging. I began orientation shortly after. I had no idea what I was getting into. My previous school experiences weren't always "great". When I started class via Zoom, I was nervous to say the least, but the teacher, Carol, was so patient and kind with the other students, I knew immediately I made the right decision. I took the Official Practice Tests and passed each one, which earned me the state grant to take the HiSET test for FREE. After just a couple of classes, I found myself testing for my diploma. It felt unreal how fast it happened. I feel like I waited longer for the results! I woke up bright and early after a few days had passed and something told me to check the test results. There it was, my high school diploma, and not just any diploma, an Honors diploma! I didn't even know there was such a thing.

When I began this journey, it was to show my girls that their dad isn't all talk, but now, after that huge victory, I think I want to go a little farther, dig a little deeper, to really see how far I can go. I'm currently looking into furthering my education. I have my small videography business but with the right knowledge and education, who's to say it can't be a big videography business? Or I might find a whole new spark altogether and help the world the way I've always craved.

If you're thinking about going back to get your high school diploma, don't wait, do it, there's no telling what momentum such a victory can have. It is never too late to become your 2.0 self. I can't wait to see the next chapter of my journey. Thank you Central Nine for giving me hope and a new set of goals.