

JORDAN GRAY

Central Nine Adult Education Success Story



Meet Jordan

My name is Jordan Gray. This is my success story. I grew up in Morgan County with my mom, dad, and two siblings.

We had it rough, but we made the best of it. We never had a stable home, always moving from one apartment to another, but we always had each other. At the end of each day, that's what matters the most!



"JORDAN'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND WILLINGNESS TO LEARN ALONG WITH HIS PERSISTENCE AND DETERMINATION WERE THE KEYS TO HIS SUCCESS!"

-JORDAN'S TEACHER
JILL JONGELING

A Life-Changing Loss

On August 5th, 2009, my father passed away from a drug overdose. My sister was 9. I was 13, and my brother was 14. It was a very hard time for us, but it was definitely the hardest for my brother, my mom, and me. The three of us lost ourselves in ways that made us feel dead to the world.

Thankfully, my sister had a great friend who gave her a place to stay. We are forever grateful for that. Meanwhile, my brother, my mom, and I all went down a very dark path. My mother found herself addicted to drugs, while my brother and I started using drugs. Not only did we lose loved ones to addiction, but we lost ourselves, which took many, many years to overcome.

Falling Behind

My brother and I dropped out of school and never looked back. I was in and out of juvenile detention, and my brother experienced an overdose at 16 years old. We were lost and had no hope of building a future for ourselves.

A Turning Point

Fast forward 10 years to 2019, when my youngest sister graduated from high school. Our family was very proud of her for doing what my mom, dad, brother, and I never did. Sadly, we didn't celebrate that with her, because instead we chose to chase drugs and alcohol.

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Continued



A New Chapter

It's 2025. My brother has been drug-free for 4 years and has his HSE. I'm 3 years clean with my HSE from Central Nine. My mother is 3 months sober and plans to pursue her HSE at C9! GOD IS GREAT!

How Central Nine Helped

Central Nine helped me in many ways. The staff are very kind and understanding of the challenges life can bring. You know they truly care about your success. The program at C9 offered a flexible schedule, which allowed me to get extra help.

With the support of C9, I landed my dream job! I applied for an engineering position at a power company. I had experience, but I was a high school dropout. I was hired with the condition that I earn my diploma within a certain timeframe or be terminated. C9 made it possible for me to keep my job.

Jordan's Message to Other Students

I'll be honest. You have to put in extra work outside the classroom, especially in subjects you struggle to understand. C9 will give you everything you need to earn your HSE and help you with job placement. What you do outside of the classroom will impact your growth throughout the program.

I didn't get the highest scores, but I passed each test on the first try by studying outside of class. It's time to lock in and put your goals within reach. C9 can help, but you have to hold yourself accountable outside of the classroom.

Whether you're an 18-year-old who just dropped out or a 45-year-old coming back for your diploma, I promise you can do it, if you put in the work.