

SUCCESS STORY



KAYDEE

Kaydee joined the Invest in You Too program in August 2017. She is a single mother of one child, age two. Kaydee had worked for many years as cosmetology instructor in the past, but lost her license. She was receiving assistance with food, child care and medical when she started the program. She was looking for a career that could support her family, provide her with opportunity for advancement, and help her get out of debt so she could move her family into their own apartment.

After an Invest in You Too presentation in a Work Success class, she spoke with her employment counselor and decided to apply for the program. Kaydee worked with her family success coach for career counseling to determine that medical manufacturing was a career she was interested in, locate child care, and ensure she had stable housing with her parents so she could successfully complete Invest in You Too.

From the start, Kaydee went out of her way to provide support and encouragement to her fellow students. She took on a leadership role in the cohort and helped fellow participants feel comfortable or understand concepts that they were struggling with. Kaydee was consistently one of the top students in her Introduction to Medical Device Manufacturing classes at Salt Lake Community College and impressed her instructor so much he recommended her for a position with a startup company he was working with.

Kaydee made the decision to accept the position and started a job with Evolve Tek making \$14 per hour and continued to work with her family success coach after beginning employment. Six months after starting her job, the company went out of business. Kaydee had been in frequent contact with her family success coach and had previously expressed concerns the company might fail so they developed a plan to help prepare her for a new job if this happened. She worked on developing skills at her current job to prepare for a future job working with FDA documentation, which was her passion at Evolve Tek.

Kaydee updated her resume with the new skills she learned at Evolve Tech and found a position at Biofire as a document control specialist. She now makes \$20.75 per hour. Document control usually required an associate's degree combined with experience, but with the skills she learned during Invest in You Too and through her previous job she was able to obtain the position. She has vision, medical and dental coverage through Biofire, as well as a retirement plan, paid vacation and sick days.

Kaydee shared "I learned job specific skills, but that was only part of what I learned. I gained self-confidence, self-worth and a sense of purpose. Because I had advisors who had faith in me when I didn't, it kept me afloat until I could have faith in myself."