

Dearl D. Hampton

Social Worker

Working on his Master's degree in Social Work
KentuckianaWorks College Access Center

I was actually referred to KCAC through a case manager at the food stamp office. She told me that if I went to KCAC they would help me fill out my FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). So I went one time and ever since I just keep coming back – even now when I'm getting ready to work on my Master's degree.

KCAC provides the resources I need to look into many different scholarships – scholarships through the state. They have a book that I used – an annual book that comes out for scholarships.

They offer me very good support. They've been part of my support network for the last six years. The staff there is just wonderful. I just like the atmosphere. I like it so much, I keep coming back

KCAC helped me realize what my major should be. I took the test that helps you explore what your major should be. After going over the results of my test with the counselor, I chose human services.

When I was at Jefferson Community and Technical College in 2006, my major for my Associate's degree was human services. I entered Spalding University as a Social Work major and graduated in June 2012. I will take summer classes for the Master's program in social work (six credit hours over the summer). Then in the fall (2012), I'll start in the program.

I've always been a helper, so I'm committed to social work. I want to focus on drug and alcohol counseling, particularly with those who have mental illnesses. That is the population I would like to work with. I work now in a transitional living program. Many of the residents in our program are dual diagnosed with substance abuse and various mental illnesses.

KCAC helped tremendously. Being referred to KCAC was the best thing to happen to me. They helped me get my financial aid applications prepared every year. From the administrative assistant at the front desk all the way back to the counselors, the support they offer is just wonderful. In addition to helping me file for financial aid, they encouraged me the whole way through school.

KCAC was a tremendous resource and support for me. There were times when I would get stressed and I could go up there and just talk to the administrative assistant. She would encourage me and let me know I could stay focused. I think that was a bonus.

I can say KCAC is dependable, reliable and always ready to help.