

Martell Stott

Adult Education

At 29, Martell Stott is turning his life around after enrolling in the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's (DWD) Adult Education program and earning his high school equivalency (HSE).

Stott is working at Matt's Customs on the southeast side of Indianapolis, learning to fabricate and paint cars. He plans to complete his education at Ivy Tech Community College and get a Commercial Driver's License. But eventually he wants to earn an undergraduate degree and become a life coach or mentor for troubled youth.

That's because Stott served two stints in prison before seeking out PACE Indy (Public Advocates in Community Re-Entry) to pursue his HSE.

"Before I found PACE, I was on house arrest," Stott said. "I was just sitting around doing nothing when I needed to handle business and get things completed. Something clicked in me; it was time to do this."

Stott said he grew up in a "fantastic home" with a supportive mother and father and was a promising running back in high school who attracted interest from a few colleges. Hanging with the wrong crowd and making bad choices, however, landed him behind bars.

Stott has no plans to return to that lifestyle thanks to DWD's Adult Education program.

"MY HSE diploma is far from the end of my educational journey," he said. "Although I am extremely happy, my objectives are still changing as I strive to reach my full potential."