

## **Success Spotlight: Hannah Garland**

Hannah Garland was home-schooled while working on her family farm in southeastern Indiana but never earned a high school diploma.

That changed when she began attending adult education classes at River Valley Resources, a not-for-profit serving Ohio and Switzerland counties. Garland received her high school equivalency and is now employed as a welder at Wood-Mizer manufacturing facility in Batesville.

Garland learned to weld as a youngster while a member of her local 4-H club and was thrilled to get a job that utilizes her skills.

“Not having my high school diploma, I felt like I was left behind,” she said. “I felt like I needed to get it out of the way to move on.”

While at River Valley Resources, Garland also learned how to communicate better, in addition to honing her interviewing skills and creating a resume to build her confidence with the ultimate goal of entering the workforce.

Katie Walton is an instructor at River Valley Resources and works with individuals like Garland to help them improve their situations. Classes are free and are offered year-round, both on-site and virtually.

“We help them get their high school diplomas as quickly as they can,” Walton said. “And then we hope to help them with career coaching and get them a job in the future.”

At Wood-Mizer, Garland said she likes interacting with her co-workers and learning new skills.

She encourages others who might find themselves in a similar situation to seek out an adult education program and earn an HSE.

“If you’re needing to graduate, this is what I did and it helped me a lot,” Garland said. “You should do it.”