



Welcome to the

**Special Summer
Virtual Learning
Community**



**How do we effectively
communicate the value of
Adult Education? Hear from
a panel representing
community colleges, CBOs,
and corrections.**



Agenda

- Hear from our Panelists

Thank you to:

Thank you _____

Adam Schauer from Waubensee Community College

George Tomlinson from Polish American Association

Chad Murphy from Spoon River College

Durant Freeman from Safer Foundation

- Questions and Discussion after we hear from panelists
 - Let's use the chat too.



WAUBONSEE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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- THE CBO PERSPECTIVE:
 - Holistic Case Management
 - Relationship Building
 - Programs Expansion
 - Greater Financial Stability



[AEFL Annual Report](#)

[Example Performance Data](#)



SAFER
FOUNDATION[®]

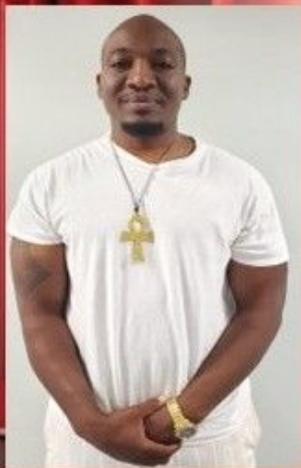
North Lawndale's Basic Skills "Center Stage"



**Robert
Blue**



**Xandre
Jarrett**



**Donte
Kenney**



**Julio
Sanchez**



**Centavious
Ingram**



**Jason
Boyd**

WELCOME TO “CENTER STAGE”

Where we celebrate the progress, achievements, and accomplishments of our students. Students can receive "Center Stage" accolades for various reasons, including being named Student of the Month, passing their High School Equivalency (HSE) exam, improving their TABE scores, tutoring others, or going above and beyond to help their classmates.

This "Center Stage" recognition is awarded to six talented individuals: *Robert Blue, Xandre Jarrett, Donte Kenney, Julio Sanchez, Centavius Ingram & Jason Boyd.*

Robert Blue - HSE Recipient

Began classes in April 2025, where he tested at a 5th-grade level in both reading and math. Initially, he presented a laid-back attitude, indicating that he didn't care much about his studies. However, it soon became clear that Mr. Blue was both invested in his education and capable of significant progress. Beneath the surface, he was attentive, asked insightful questions, and continually pushed himself to improve. By May 2025, he showed solid academic growth, achieving a 6th-grade reading level and an impressive 7th-grade math level on his post-test.

Motivated by his progress, Mr. Blue enrolled in the HSE Boot Camp, where he dedicated himself to daily review, participated in small-group instruction, and engaged in individualized practice. He successfully passed all of his practice tests and ultimately earned his High School Equivalency (HSE).

What sets Mr. Blue apart is not just his academic gains but also the energy and charisma he brought to the classroom. His sense of humor and authentic personality contributed to a positive classroom culture. He naturally engaged with his peers and often used his wit to keep others motivated and focused, even during challenging times. Mr. Blue is a dynamic presence—someone who can light up a room while also demonstrating quiet determination. His journey underscores the importance of meeting students where they are and recognizing that confidence and achievement often flourish when students feel seen, supported, and challenged.

Xandre Jarrett-HSE Recipient

Began his educational journey in March 2025, testing at a 1st-grade level in both reading and math. While many might have felt discouraged by such results, Mr. Jarrett approached his learning with focus, humility, and a clear determination to improve.

In just one month, through consistent attendance, active participation, and targeted instruction, Mr. Jarrett made remarkable progress. By April 2025, he had increased his scores to a 5th-grade reading level and a 4th-grade math level—a significant gain in both subjects in an exceptionally short period. Recognizing his progress, Mr. Jarrett enrolled in the HSE Boot Camp, where he committed to intensive preparation. He demonstrated strong perseverance, mastering content at an accelerated pace and successfully passing all of his HSE practice tests.

His dedication paid off; shortly after completing the boot camp, Mr. Jarrett earned his High School Equivalency (HSE). This accomplishment reflects not only his rapid academic growth but also his resilience and refusal to let early setbacks define his capabilities. Mr. Jarrett's story is a testament to the power of hard work, structured support, and a growth mindset. He has become a quiet motivator in the classroom, proving that no matter where you start, success is possible with effort, belief, and the right guidance.

Donte Kenney-Student of the Month

Joined the class in April 2025. Entering with a 10th-grade reading level and a 6th-grade math level. From the beginning, Mr. Kenney demonstrated a strong commitment to learning and quickly became one of the top students in the class. By the end of the month, he had post-tested with significant improvements, reaching an 11th-grade level in reading and an 8th-grade level in math. What truly sets Mr. Kenney apart is his unwavering determination and work ethic. He was eager to take his High School Equivalency (HSE) exam, often studying before, during, and after class. He met daily with peer tutor Julio Sanchez to enhance his math skills, showcasing a proactive approach to mastering challenging concepts.

Mr. Kenney passed the Social Studies, Language Arts, and Science sections of the HSE with ease—achievements he earned through consistency, preparation, and self-discipline. Although he narrowly missed passing the math section, he did not let that setback define his journey. Instead, he continues to review, ask questions, and push himself with the same intensity, determined to succeed when given the next opportunity. In addition to his academic efforts, Mr. Kenney has always been an engaged, respectful, and encouraging classmate. He contributes meaningfully to discussions and often offers help to peers who are struggling. His dedication to both his growth and the success of others reflects true leadership and character.

Mr. Kenney's resilience, focus, and support for his peers make him a shining example of what can be accomplished with the right mindset. His attitude serves as a reminder that progress is a process, and that staying the course is just as important as the outcome.

Julio Sanchez- Tutor of the Year

Began his classes in February 2025, starting with a reading level equivalent to 9th grade and a math level of 5th grade. Through consistent effort, active participation, and a strong commitment to his learning, Mr. Sanchez made significant progress in a short period. He achieved a reading level of 10th grade and a math level of 7th grade within just a few months.

Recognizing his growth and leadership potential, Mr. Sanchez quickly took on a peer tutoring role. He has become an invaluable resource in the classroom, regularly assisting ESL students with their reading assignments, helping them expand their vocabulary, and developing comprehension strategies. His ability to explain complex ideas clearly and patiently has greatly boosted the confidence and performance of his peers. In addition to supporting ESL learners, Mr. Sanchez has also played a crucial role in preparing High School Equivalency (HSE) candidates for their exams, particularly in challenging math topics such as algebra, geometry, and multi-step problem-solving. His willingness to take on these responsibilities, along with his positive attitude and approachable manner, has improved the learning environment for everyone.

Mr. Sanchez exemplifies the transformative power of education and peer leadership. He continues to model academic responsibility, teamwork, and a genuine commitment to the success of others. His journey is a testament to what can be achieved through hard work, resilience, and a desire to make a difference.

Centavius Ingram- HSE Recipient

Began attending classes in March 2025, initially testing at a 4th-grade level in both reading and math. Despite starting with basic academic needs, Mr. Ingram demonstrated an immediate desire to improve and took full advantage of every learning opportunity available to him. Through hard work, daily participation, and focused instruction, he made remarkable progress in just over a month. After post-testing in April, he achieved a 10th-grade reading level and a 7th-grade math level—a significant leap that reflects his dedication and persistence.

Following these accomplishments, Mr. Ingram promptly began preparing for High School Equivalency (HSE) practice tests, determined to reach his next academic goal. He remained focused, motivated, and committed to his studies, and his dedication paid off; he successfully earned his HSE.

Earning his HSE was a transformative moment for Mr. Ingram. It not only affirmed the progress he had made but also significantly boosted his confidence. He eagerly shared his success, proudly telling anyone who would listen about his accomplishment. His enthusiasm became contagious, inspiring his classmates and fostering a culture of perseverance and achievement in the classroom. Mr. Ingram's story is a powerful example of what can be achieved through determination, consistent effort, and self-belief. He continues to serve as an inspiration for both students and staff.

Jason Boyd- HSE Recipient

Began attending class on March 17th, starting with initial TABE scores of 8 in reading and 5 in math. From the beginning, Jason demonstrated a sincere desire to improve his academic skills and take control of his educational journey. His hard work paid off during post-testing, where he raised his reading score to 9 and his math score to 7, reflecting significant growth in both areas.

When I first met Jason, he mentioned that he believed he had previously taken and passed the High School Equivalency (HSE) exam but was unsure and lacked documentation to confirm it. Instead of making assumptions or ignoring the issue, Jason expressed a strong desire to uncover the truth so he could take the necessary steps to obtain his credentials officially. This level of honesty and initiative highlights his character and determination.

Throughout his time in the program, Jason has been a consistent and motivated presence in the classroom. He not only committed himself to his own learning but also frequently collaborated with his peers, forming study groups and encouraging others to stay focused. His leadership and willingness to support others have positively impacted the classroom environment.

Mr. Boyd's growth, both academically and personally, exemplifies the power of perseverance and a proactive mindset. He is well on his way to achieving his educational goals and serves as a strong