

# Sampson County Dislocated Worker Overcomes Homelessness to Successfully Complete Training

*Winter 2016*

After being laid off in early 2014, Antwan Murphy enrolled into the WIA Dislocated Worker program at the NCWorks Career Center of Clinton in hopes of becoming a Barber. With the help of his case manager, Mary Warren, Antwan entered into the Barbering program at James Sprunt Community College with plans to complete his training in May of 2016.

During the Fall Semester of 2015, Antwan fell on hard times and became homeless, but that did not deter him from completing his goals. He attended class every day and never gave his instructors any indication that he was living out of his SUV. He arrived early and stayed late in order to complete his training as soon as possible. Even after his Barbering Kit was stolen, Antwan continued to have a positive attitude and borrowed the tools he needed from his classmates to complete his training. His hard work, determination, and perseverance paid off in December 2015 when he successfully completed his Barber Training a semester early, and scored a 91 on his final exam.



“I never once heard him complain about anything,” Mary stated. “When he came into the Career Center he was always neat, clean, and upbeat with a big smile on his face. He did not look at his plight and say ‘woe is me’, rather he continued to persevere and keep the faith that his life would change once he obtained his training goals.”

Since graduating, Antwan goes to a local Barber Shop every day and volunteers his services while he prepares to take his State Board exam. He even has a job opportunity lined up for himself after he obtains his license. Mary worked in conjunction with his Chief Instructor, Patsy McCoy, to help him find the resources needed to improve his quality of life. Antwan now has a place to live and has been approved for SNAP benefits. Mary was even able to refer him to different agencies that assisted him with obtaining clothing for his job interview, met his immediate need for food, and provided necessary items for his living quarters by using the Community Resource Services Guide in NCWorks.

“I am so very proud of Antwan because he never gave up! His tenacity truly exemplifies his determination and will power to prevent any obstacles from stopping him from becoming a Barber,” Mary stated. “Some people often measure the heart of a champion by his success. I believe that a true Champion is measured by how he overcomes adversity, and Antwan Murphy is a true champion!”