

Jeffrey Bassett

Over-the-Road Truck Driver
Commercial Driver's Licence (CDL) Training
KentuckianaWorks One-Stop Career Center

Three and a half years ago, I was working in a machine shop and had an accident with a machine. The machine got mangled up, and the guy said, "You know, hey hate to do it. I know it was one incident, but I got to let you go." And, I started job searching and called a friend of mine and we were talking and told me, you know, to contact KentuckianaWorks. And, I contacted KentuckianaWorks, and they told me to come down and talk to a counselor.

It turned out to be more than just helping me find a job. Helping me put, it helped put me through school, which I couldn't afford. They even gave me the choice of picking out what I wanted to do.

I went to school. It didn't take very long for me to get through their program to get into school. It was probably maybe a month of working with the KentuckianaWorks counselors. I had to take a TABE test, and when I finished that, they allowed me to go on and pick my school and paid for it. It took three weeks to go to school. And, after I finished school, we went and took a driver's test. I got a CDL and found a job. You know, the school helped me find a job.

Somebody else was taking on the responsibility of paying for me to go to school. And, I had to be grateful for that. And, the best way I could show my gratitude was to get up every morning and go to school and give it my 100 percent.

If I were to have to talk to a friend today, I'd have to tell 'em, you know, it's time to get busy. These people are serious. These people want to help you, but you've got to want the help. This is not something that they're just giving away. You've got to want to work of it.

I was living paycheck to paycheck – robbing Peter to pay Paul. I was doing odds and end jobs on the side. You learn humility when you really want to get somewhere. You'll cut grass, you'll dig ditches, you'll do whatever it takes to put a nickel in your pocket. And, I went from doing that to driving a truck. And, I've bought a house, I've bought a motorcycle. Child support as usual is paid. There's no being behind on it. I don't have everything I want, but I have everything I need.