

**Robert Kearn**

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I was an ice-cream man – for five years actually. Basically, I was just trying to survive. I had to go out of business – found it very hard to make ends meet.

That's when I decided that I had to do something else. Along the way, someone told me to go into KentuckianaWorks. When I was there, I saw a sign in the window, the Native American Employment and Training Program.

I spoke to Annette Jones. She's been kind of my mentor the whole time. I could always just go there, into her office and talk to her or just call her up on the phone. Anything I ever wanted to know and needed help with, she was like on my side, kind of lobbying for me.

It kind of helped me to have just peace of mind. It's very important to have if you're going to school. You're very, very taxed. It was just a big help. I filled out some applications. And, I qualified for financial assistance.

It helped me greatly. I can't say how big of a help it was, it helped me with my tuition. I graduated in May 2007 with an associate's degree in respiratory care.

A good job, is just – seems like it's kind of hard to find. Today, if you have a good job, you're very fortunate. Going through this curriculum allowed me to have a good job.

As a registered respiratory therapist, I help manage people's ventilator care, and I give breathing treatments.

Being a registered respiratory therapist has really impacted me in many different ways. I have more time on my hands, I could spend more time with my daughter. And I don't have as much stress since I make more money now. I'm able to have a livable income, and I'm very happy with my job.

If I had any advice I could give anybody, it would be to probably leave no stone unturned and try your best.

I guess when you get into this, you don't know all the good things that could happen. Everything just kind of worked out. But I had to have help, and KentuckianaWorks really helped me.