

## CELEBRATING YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

Happy holidays! We wrap up 2016 celebrating **over 1,400 graduates!** Many of you are among that number and many more of you will be there in the New Year. Reasons to celebrate include:

1. **Oscar** is now working full-time and plans to enroll in college and take evening classes.
2. **Karen** learned how to do better for her kids and herself.
3. **Shontia** gained the tools to get ahead in her child care career.
4. **Jacquelyn** is earning her Certification to become an addictions counselor.
5. **You** are on your way to accomplishing big things.

From our Smart Horizons family to yours...Happy Holidays!

—Teresa Salafrio, Principal



## YOU SAID IT



*"I wanted to finish my high school diploma to make my parents proud. Next: I plan to continue my education."*

—Elizabeth Q

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*"The classes taught me a lot about what I'm going to face in life: taxes, social skills, interviewing for a job, etc. Consumer Math gave me important information I can use throughout my daily life. The lessons were really useful over all—surprisingly more so than public school."*

—Enrique V

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TELL US YOUR STORY!

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

*"I want my children to know that you create your own future. And I want them to share something with me that I didn't share with my mom—having an education and being prepared for life."*

**Why did you enroll?** I work at McDonald's and was able to complete this program through the company's Archways to Opportunity program. I was trying to get my GED but it was hard for me to get to the classes using public transportation—and I struggled with all the tests.

**Best thing about the program?** It gave me the confidence to pursue my goals. This was the first time I didn't feel like a failure in school. My coach Heather Stores was an amazing support. I am so grateful for her.

**Challenges you overcame?** Severe test anxiety. Being too hard on myself. I dropped out of school in 11th grade. I had a hard time with the constant testing. Then I got pregnant and had to focus on being a parent and making money.

**What's next?** College! I am already enrolled in a Teacher Education program.

**Advice for students who are struggling?** Ask for help. Don't be too hard on yourself. It's OK if something takes you a little longer. Do not give up no matter what. When I received my diploma I started crying. I have wanted this for so long. I feel so complete! You will, too.

Congrats! We are so proud of you, Audra! Stay tuned for Audra's complete story—coming in January.



TELL US YOUR STORY

## 5 SCHOOL RESOLUTIONS TO START NOW

By: **Academic Coach, Kristen Nicholson**

The holiday season is a great time to prepare for a new year and to determine your 2017 priority goals. Just as important as personal resolutions, "school resolutions" can help you make big academic strides. Here are my favorite school resolutions for 2017:

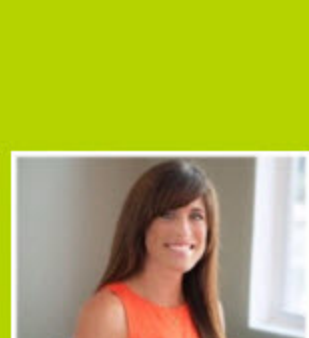
1. **Do it Now:** Start making your goals a priority and say goodbye to procrastination. Giving yourself adequate time reduces stress and allows you a greater chance of doing well.
2. **Keep a Calendar:** Start making note of your important dates. This prevents missed deadlines and allows you to allocate your time properly.
3. **Remove Distractions:** Start creating an effective learning environment. Removing social media, television, and phone interruptions will keep you more focused.
4. **Stick to a Routine:** Start building the day around schoolwork. Making your schoolwork part of each day, just as you do with eating and sleeping, will allow you to stay on track.
5. **Track Goals:** Start celebrating your achievements. Listing your goals and checking them off along the way will provide you with motivation to work towards remaining goals.



So now it's time to count down to a new year with new resolutions and new accomplishments.

3... 2... 1... Happy Holidays and see you in the classroom!

## MEET COACH KRISTEN



*"My students are all taking advantage of a chance to change their lives. I feel honored to be able to help."*

CLICK HERE TO READ HER FULL STORY!



## UPCOMING

**Friday, December 23 - Monday, December 26, 2016**

The office will be closed for the holidays.

**Friday, January 6, 2017, 2:30–3:00 pm CT**

ONLINE SEMINAR: OVERCOMING TEST ANXIETY AND STRESS  
Learn More: [Log in to the classroom.](#) Click "Events"

**Monday, January 16, 2017, 6:00–6:30 pm CT**

WEBINAR: PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING  
Learn More: [Log in to the classroom.](#) Click "Events"



## STAYING ON PACE CONTEST

Congrats to the recent winners!

**August: Marta S.**  
**September: Renaldo G.**  
**October: Tyrone F.**  
**November: Caryn C.**

Each month, students who completed 2 courses in the previous month and are on pace to graduate are automatically entered to win a gift card.

Are you on pace so far this month? There's still time! You can do it.

### Mission

Career Online High School is committed to preparing students for the workforce and post-secondary education by delivering innovative career-based education in a supportive, engaging environment.

