

## Drive to Succeed

Cedric Waters had a successful 20-year career as a commercial truck driver. Then his life and career took a detour when he was battling addiction and wound up in jail. After his release, he found that his criminal record presented a lot of roadblocks, and he couldn't find an employer that was willing to hire him to do commercial driving. And in the meantime, his commercial drivers license expired.

Since he needed income to start paying off his court fines, he settled for a minimum-wage job at a coffee shop, but knew that wouldn't be a sustainable long-range option to support himself.

Cedric also knew he needed to get back on the right road with regard to his addiction. So, he went into a program at a recovery house called The Gate House for Men. There, he met Brad Weaver, Community Education Instructor for IU13. Cedric told Brad about his dream of getting back behind the wheel.

Because Cedric's CDL license had expired, he'd knew he'd have to go through a CDL training program again. But it had been years since Cedric had done any schooling, so Brad provided some tutoring for Cedric in basic writing and math skills. Then, Brad helped Cedric look into CDL programs.

"Brad helped doors to open for me," Cedric says. "Everything he said he was going to do, he did, as far as helping me to find a program and get in. He did what he could do for me and now the rest is on me. I have to stay persistent."

Cedric got into a CDL training program at Lancaster County Career and Technology Center (LCCTC) and his persistence soon paid off. He completed the CDL program in short order and soon afterward, he got his license back.

"Now I just need to find an employer who's willing to hire me," he says. He has applied to numerous employers, but has received a rejection from everyone. It's gotten discouraging, he admits.

"I'm just looking for a light of hope," Cedric explains. "I know I screwed up. I've made a mistake, am paying off my fines. I want to have the opportunity to come out here and earn a living and support myself, so I'm just trying to put my best foot forward."

He mentions an upcoming interview and his drive to succeed.

"I appreciate the fact that I now have my license and am still in the game," he says hopefully. "Maybe this next employer is the one who will give me a chance. I have to just hold onto that light of hope."