



UNITED WE HELP CHILDREN REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL

LIVE UNITED

Mercede was referred to Second Start Alternative High School after repetitive absences from school. After her first year and a half at Concord High School, Mercede had earned only 1.5 credits, and every indication was that these might be the only credits she would earn before dropping out altogether.

Initially, Mercede continued to skip school at Second Start, but pretty quickly came to realize that the staff genuinely cared about her and were invested in helping build a better future for herself.

Hope began to creep into Mercede's life as she began attending school more and more often. After being at Second Start for a semester, Mercede became an engaged student and easily found comfort in offering her best.

Mercede is now in her senior year of high school and working very hard to graduate on time with her peers this summer.

This is a tremendous undertaking, due to the lost time at the beginning of her high school career, but it is an undertaking that she is able to conquer because of the skills she has developed. Mercede has developed a high level of faith in herself and her abilities and is determined to persevere through and overcome any obstacles that stands in her way.

She has found her passion and developed a plan for achieving her goal of becoming an educator herself! She currently has a TET (Transitional Employment Training) job working with elementary special education students.

She is truly invested in her learning for the purpose of creating her best possible future. In order to fully show her resiliency to colleges, she is taking extra classes out of her own desire, not just to meet graduation requirements. She is doing everything in her power to ensure that she is creating the path to realize her dreams.



1,300+

young people engaged in enriching afterschool & summer programming, supporting their academic and social development.

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community.

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