



Thank you for allowing me to share the impact of Humboldt's virtual education program with emphasis on **the difference it has made for adult education** in Southeast KS. Four years ago I was given the opportunity to develop a virtual program for USD 258. This was an easy transition from my past commitment to always inspire and educate the nontraditional students. I was employed for 12 years in Dickinson Co. at the Solomon High School. I served as the HS At-Risk educator and Parents as Teachers Director. My passion has always been to help develop a successful path for young and older students. I remember asking myself what goals I wanted to accomplish for Humboldt's Virtual Program, knowing I intended to target adult dropouts in Southeast KS. I was determined to offer open enrollment, all year, so we did not miss the window of when a HS or adult student was ready. Knowing a large number have already failed a GED program, or do not have a car, gas money, babysitters, skills or testing fees, \$132. I knew for sure I wanted to:

1. **Provide Second Chances!** (or maybe 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>) Students drop out of school for a variety of reasons. As right as those reasons may seem at the time, the decisions they make don't always work out the way they hoped! I wanted to provide that chance to earn a high school diploma online for adults seeking a high school diploma! The adults who have went full circle in life and realized they needed to go back to school. The 1<sup>st</sup> year a 42 year old man with a family, had worked as a manager for Walmart in Iola, Ks for 7 years. He called me and said, "Mrs. Siebenmorgen, can you help me? I have a great opportunity to move up in management but when they sent my paper work in **I was turned down by cooperate office for having a GED.**" They told him if he could have a HS diploma by December they would hold the job for him. He completed 11 credits in 6 months and received the position. I enroll adults every year with a GED who tell me they are still labeled as a dropout for employment and have been unsuccessful. They want and need a HS diploma.

Year	9 <sup>th</sup> -12th	Adults	Heads	FTE	March	Grad. HS	Adults	HS %	Adult %	Total %	Total Grads
2014-2015	36	161	197	197.9	31+	11	24	(30%)	(15%)	(18%)	
2013-2014	28	126	154	156.3	33+	16	28	57%	22%	29%	44
2012-2013	19	114	133	132.2	33+	12	30	63%	26%	32%	42
2011-2012	16	91	107	107.6	35+	4	17	25%	18%	20%	21

2. **Break the Chain!** I wanted to go into homes and enroll families and bring them back as adult students to succeed in education. I wanted to change the role models and mind set of "I always struggled in school, I had teachers who.....so I quit!" Not a one professes to be good in math, or love English literature, but to let them know that it's OK we can start at the level, where math left you! I back them down to 6<sup>th</sup> grade math all the time. You have to, I see transcripts all the time where someone got a D in pre-algebra, D- in Algebra 1, and an F in Algebra 2, usually the same semester they dropped out! Can you blame them? Amazes me!