

**How has Graduate Arkansas Public Charter School helped you?**  
**SUCCESS COACH**

**PUGH, SHATARA – “ANTHONY [REDACTED]”**

*Graduate Arkansas has, without a single doubt in my mind, changed my life. I had been rejected and have been given up on by three different schools before coming and being a student at GA. I had been diagnosed with a chronic skin condition at the age of 14, and by the time I was 16, my skin condition progressed even more, holding me back from my high school education. As a student who enjoyed learning, who had been placed in some AP classes, all of that did not matter when it came to what had taken over my life. After failing to show up to school due to my condition, I had been tossed to three different schools who had all given up on me, one school had even kicked me from their program with no contact and no heads up. After I had basically tried every program in my area, I did not have a single clue of what to do next, until, I had remembered what one of my teachers had told me, "Anthony if this school goes under and you have no where to go, try Graduate Arkansas down in Little Rock, I have some connections over there and its all virtual, and I am certain they will attend to you and your needs". As crazy and coincidental as it may sound, this was a real conversation that had transpired, and I am extremely blessed and grateful that it happened. I had quickly realized that GA was so different from any other school or program that I had ever been a part of, the teachers and student coaches were so attentive, forgiving, and motivating in any instance. There were multiple times where I was not the best student, missing multiple days, assignments, and lacking communication, my student success coach, Ms Shatara Pugh, had contacted me and told me to continue pushing, to make goals for myself, to find a balance and change to help me be more consistent in my work, giving me real actual advice and help. I had honestly first thought before I read her message that I was going to be greeted with some type of negativity, especially due to what I had experienced in my past school programs, but this initial conversation with Ms Pugh had made me more comfortable to reach out and communicate to my teachers and advisors. This has taught me more than school, this has taught me that communication is crucial for making any type of progress in life, especially if being faced with multiple barriers at a time. Years passed, my skin condition had improved, along with my progress of attaining my high school diploma. There had been multiple ups and downs throughout my time in GA, through it all, the team and teachers of GA had always had my back, I am and will always be extremely grateful for every single person over there that had made it possible for me to make it this far. Coming to GA has changed my life. Thank you all for what you did and what you do for not only me, but for all students in this school and program.*