

## The David McIntosh Memorial Scholarship

### About:

The David McIntosh Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the hard work and success of long-time ADVANCE client, David McIntosh.

David was, at heart, a good man, a kind man, and often, a quiet but determined man. He had his share of struggles, like all of us, but during his almost six years working with ADVANCE he put great effort into stabilizing his life and improving his education and employment opportunities. In 2020, at age 46, David earned his high school diploma. The photo above shows how much this meant to him on graduation day. David also maintained stable employment at Grocery Outlet and later, at Smart and Final. He was well-liked by customers and co-workers alike. Until the real estate “boom” of early COVID, he also maintained stable housing which unfortunately disappeared when the house he was renting was sold and converted to a primary residence for a remote worker transplant. Despite this setback, David never stopped working with us and continued his career and educational journey, even enrolling at Lake Tahoe Community College. His unexpected passing was a stark reminder of how important it is that we continue to reach out, connect, and support all members of our community.



The ADVANCE program, in honor of David’s hard work, willingness to get back up after each fall, and gentle demeanor will award \$500 scholarships to individuals who, like David continue to persevere, who don’t give up, despite the challenges of living a life in Tahoe. These are unrestricted scholarships in that there are no requirements on how recipients spend the funds only that they embody David’s persistence and commitment to their goals.

### Eligibility:

To be eligible for a David McIntosh Scholarship, you must be a registered ADVANCE client, regardless of your stated goal(s). In addition, the applicant should also demonstrate the level of commitment, despite setbacks, to achieving their goal. The application is intentionally being kept very simple but will require an ADVANCE team member endorsement.

To request an application, or for more information regarding the David McIntosh Memorial Scholarship, please visit an ADVANCE office or email us at [info@advance-learnandgrow.org](mailto:info@advance-learnandgrow.org) and include “David McIntosh Scholarship” in the subject line.

Learn more about David and how the team at ADVANCE remembers him...

**CR:**

I met David while I was still working in Enrollment Services and remember his being quite timid and uncomfortable with the prospect of taking classes on the college campus. I frequently encountered individuals who like me were considering taking classes at an older age but were unsure if they could be successful. I made it a point of reassuring anyone who was uncertain that they definitely could succeed and remember doing so with David. I was delighted to see a noticeable improvement in David, each time he came to sign up for additional classes, he was becoming more self-assured and comfortable.

When I started working with ADVANCE I saw more of David and even as he encountered difficult situations, he was always courteous and pleasant and shared his appreciation each time I met with him. There were a couple of times he came in over the past couple of months and I was able to help him out in getting a bit of assistance and before he headed off, he made sure to stop by and express his thanks.

I was there attending David's graduation and took photos of David as he rode the chairlift up the mountain to receive his diploma and his absolute joy was unmistakable, we handed him a bouquet of flowers and congratulated him. He was absolutely beaming with pride, it's one of my best memories I've had while working here ADVANCE!

When David started working at Smart & Final, which is just up the street from my home, I would frequently see him as he checked out my groceries. I was pleased to hear him sharing with his ADVANCE Transition Navigator, Nicole how his working there was going great telling her that he was their fastest checker and was up for a raise.

I'm going to miss having David stopping in at ADVANCE.

**NPD:**

David was in the very first onboarding session that ADVANCE held, and that I led. He made a huge transformation from those beginning meetings. From what he shared throughout the years, it was clear that David had experienced some incredibly difficult times. The trust that he provided me, and to all of us at ADVANCE, was a huge deal. His graduation ceremony was an exciting and important day for the ADVANCE team and it was so wonderful to watch how happy he was. The team all had the pleasure to work with David in one way or another throughout the years, and while he had his extremely stubborn side, it would also be one of his greatest strengths, in the way that he would set goals and accomplish them, and almost more importantly, pick himself up and refocus after having a setback. He took a lot of pride in his work, both in school and in the workplace.

I think his second biggest personal goal throughout working together was getting his driver's license, and after trying to get it back for years, he was able to do so in March of 2021. The first thing he did during our next appointment was make sure that I took a copy and keep it in his ADVANCE file. He was extremely proud.

David truly showed us that he could do the hard work, and I am so grateful to have been a trusted navigation/support person for him that allowed me to be part of his career/education journey.

**MC:**

When I joined the ADVANCE team David was kind enough to let me sit in on one of his sessions to learn from Nicole. He always had a smile for every team member when he came into our offices. My husband and I were shopping at Grocery Outlet one weekend and there David was bagging groceries. He was so proud to show me his job duties and in turn I was so proud to see him thriving and showing off his new job skillset.

**CM:**

I have seen David in and out of ADVANCE on many occasions working with Nicole. I had the pleasure of sharing his graduation day. In all this time, David never looked so happy. He was so proud of his accomplishment.

**GD:**

I want to share one of my first memories of working in person at ADVANCE and David was part of that memory. David joined the first digital literacy class that we launched in person. He was there along with 3 others. The rest of the participants in the group were non-native English speakers who had a lower level of digital literacy than David did. I didn't know much about David but I remember being so grateful he was in the class. He was so encouraging and helpful to the others. I sensed he was proud that he was able to assist others with digital literacy even though it was something he was working on himself at that moment. I'm very grateful for that memory and that I had the pleasure of meeting him.

There are no words for that picture of him coming off the ski lift...

