



**Erica Greene**  
***Job Seeker of the Month***

Erica Greene has been in the workforce since age 14, gaining experience in a variety of fields and stocking her resume with valuable skills and knowledge. In addition to her work experience, Erica completed four years of college at Ball State University and Indiana State University. When she lost her job at the Henry County Dollar General in July 2010, she soon realized that despite her ample work experience, college education and vibrant personality, the job market did not look promising. Fortunately, Greene had already recognized the value of a Work Ready Certificate and had started the process of certification earlier that month.

"I'm fortunate to have a diverse portfolio, with plenty of experience in sales, as well as a bright, outgoing personality" said Erica. "I was shocked that I still couldn't find work after posting 120 resumes on Yahoo! Hot Jobs and meeting with multiple employers and businesses."

After weeks of searching, Erica finally decided to seek help at her local career center. A tear-filled Erica met with Mincey McMissick at the Georgia Department of Labor's Griffin Career Center to discuss what else she could do to improve her job search. During this meeting she learned about Georgia Work Ready and the Work Ready assessment.

"I've never been a big fan of taking tests," said Erica, "but when Mincey McKissick told me how important a Work Ready Certificate could be for finding a job, I knew I had to do it. Ms. McKissick helped me sign up for the assessment, guided me through the process and basically became a mentor to me. Without her persistence and guidance, I probably wouldn't be where I am today."

Within three short weeks, Erica earned her Silver Work Ready Certificate and faced the job market with a revived sense of confidence and a stronger resume than ever before. The Work Ready assessment identified her key strengths and pinpointed areas of work that fit those traits. The feedback from the assessment encouraged Erica to apply for jobs she otherwise may never have considered, including the position at Midstate Enterprizes in Spalding County, where she works today.

"During my interview, my future boss asked me about my Work Ready Certificate," said Erica. "His business is small and family-owned, so he wasn't familiar with the details of the Work Ready assessment and the process I went through to become certified. He was impressed by my extensive sales resume, but he took special interest in my Work Ready certification. It made my application stand out and helped me get the job."

Less than one month after losing her job at Dollar General, Erica began training for her new position as a sales representative for Midstate Enterprizes. Her new job enables her to make commission on each of her sales, providing her with greater income and reduced stress as a young, single mother.

(more)



Even though Erica may not have considered applying for her current position before becoming involved in Work Ready, she now believes it's a perfect fit for her.

"I enjoy going to work every day," said Erica. "I'm surrounded by positive people who are business-oriented and driven to succeed. It's the atmosphere of my dream job. The opportunities for advancement are endless and now I'm able to hold my head high with the confidence that my future and my family are financially secure."

The success Erica experienced in her new position has made her realize how accurate the Work Ready assessment was in identifying her skills. Knowing her strengths and determined to overcome her weaknesses, Erica has set a goal to open her own small business within the next five years by saving her residual commissions and following through with Work Ready skills gap training. She hopes to improve upon her math skills and achieve a gold and, ultimately, platinum certificate.

###