



BUILD-UP ACADEMY SUCCESS STORY
Women with Checkered Past Finds Success with SELF's Build-Up Academy Program

When Amanda signed up for Build-up Academy at SELF, she was determined to find a career path despite past choices and a criminal record that limited her employment.

Amanda juggled long days, working full-time for a temp agency and completing Build-up Academy construction classes in the evening from 6-9:30 p.m. She completed 100 hours of classroom training and 40 hours of hands-on service learning, where she gave back and volunteered in the community. Amanda earned her NCCER construction certification, an OSHA 10 card and a tool kit.

With new confidence in her ability to get a job and with help from SELF, Amanda started applying for jobs in the construction and manufacturing sectors. In January, Amanda was offered a permanent, full-time position with benefits at an advanced manufacturing company that makes electric panels. Amanda is saving her paychecks and even working overtime so she can pay down bills and start saving for her future. She enrolled in college part-time this fall to study Electrical Engineering and has made straight "A"s.

With hard work and determination, Amanda was able to achieve her dreams.