

A Connections to 'Success Story' - Willie

My Name is Willie Fleming, and I'm an alumni with Connections to Success.

I was headed to UNOB to play ball, I was going to graduate and everything from high school. I actually got my first felony at the age of seventeen, but I wasn't charged until I was eighteen, it was in self-defense. You know what they say, "once you get in the system, it's hard to get out" well it's true. I was in the system, and it just seemed like I would never get out of it, snow balled effect, one thing after another you know, and it got to the point where you know, I didn't have no options. I didn't have any source or means of doing better, or bettering myself. So when I would go to jail, I would get back out of jail you know, and go back to the same place that they picked me up. Which was doing me no justice, no justice whatsoever. Before I got with Connections I couldn't get a job, with the felony in my record no one would hire me, nobody would even give me a chance. With Connections I started working with American Crane and Tractor. I went from sales to actually a supervisor on salary. So you know, just being a United States citizen, paying my taxes, it helps the community. You know, I got a little girl now, you know she can look up and actually see her father. There's a lot of people out here that are smart, and intelligent, we can possibly have scientist, we can have doctors, I mean you have a lot of good people out here that have just made a bad choice or a bad decision, but that does not mean that they're a bad person. That's the reason I believe people should have a second chance. You know all I needed was a shot, and Connections just really opened my eyes to a whole new world of opportunities.