



Client Story: From Crisis to Confidence: How ESSDACK Learning Centers are Rebuilding Dreams in the USA

Overview

Company Name: ESSDACK Learning Centers

Industry: Educational Service Agency

Organisation size: 50+ Employees

Office Location: Kansas, United States of America (USA)

Solution: Alison FLMS

Key Outcomes:

- ✓ **33 students** completed **173 courses**
- ✓ **33 students** currently completing **56 courses**
- ✓ **12 current-year grads** completed **105 career-aligned courses**
- ✓ Total graduates to date: **28**



Background

Educational Service and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas (ESSDACK), headquartered in **Kansas, USA**, is a pioneering education consultancy committed to **bridging critical gaps** in education and employment opportunities. With **50 passionate employees**, ESSDACK Learning Centers serve hundreds of learners from **schools, non-profits, and community organisations** across the Midwest, specifically targeting vulnerable and underserved populations **facing significant life challenges**.

Many of the learners supported by **ESSDACK Learning Centers** are navigating complex personal crises, including **poverty, homelessness, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse recovery**, or involvement with the justice system. These individuals often encounter immense barriers to education and employment, leaving them at risk of chronic unemployment and societal marginalisation. ESSDACK Learning Centers seek to break this cycle by offering practical, career-focused education solutions that **foster hope, dignity, and tangible pathways** to economic independence.

In this context, **Alison** emerged as a **natural partner, providing accessible, impactful online courses** that align seamlessly with ESSDACK Learning Centers' mission to uplift and empower learners confronting the most difficult of life circumstances.

The Challenges

ESSDACK Learning Centers address critical educational and socio-economic barriers faced by learners. Without targeted, holistic support, these barriers perpetuate cycles of **unemployment, financial instability, and social marginalisation**. Learners frequently find themselves trapped in low-paying or temporary jobs, if employed at all, limiting their prospects for a stable, dignified life. Moreover, limited educational opportunities exacerbate feelings of **hopelessness, eroding self-confidence and diminishing aspirations for a better future**.



One learner vividly describes the crisis she faced:

"I was working in a position that did not provide any type of training. I was just expected to learn as I went. The Learning Cafe and Alison became a saving grace as there were courses offered to help me learn the basics of the position I was in." - Name withheld upon request

ESSDACK Learning Centers urgently needed a **solution offering flexible, comprehensive education** that **could seamlessly integrate** into their existing programs. Additionally, they required **robust analytical capabilities** to effectively measure the **outcomes and real-world impact** of their educational initiatives, empowering them to refine strategies, **demonstrate effectiveness to stakeholders**, and **enhance program delivery**.

The Alison Solution

Recognising the profound need for flexible, inclusive, and career-focused educational opportunities, **ESSDACK Learning Centers** **partnered with Alison**. Alison provided **diverse, accessible, and free 5500+ online courses** that directly align with ESSDACK Learning Centers' mission of empowering vulnerable populations with the knowledge and credentials needed to thrive, all for FREE.

Through Alison's extensive course catalogue, learners gain **valuable certifications in healthcare, technology, hospitality, business management, and other high-demand sectors**. These qualifications open doors to stable employment, fostering economic independence and resilience.



"The fact that Alison offers training that students can access is amazing. Add in, the idea that the training is taught by industry professionals and it is free is a game changer. We can substitute courses relevant to them for the standard elective courses and make their learning experience valuable to each learner individually."



Mr. Mark Calvin

Site Director, ESSDACK Learning Centers, USA

Real Impact, Real Stories

The partnership between **ESSDACK Learning Centers and Alison** have yielded profound results, transforming the lives of individuals who once faced seemingly insurmountable barriers. One learner, previously **struggling to find stable employment**, shared a particularly powerful testimony.



"Alison's courses and information helped me learn that what I thought I was interested in was not actually where my heart was. I was able to make the adjustments and get connected to the training that fits my life. I continue to use Alison even after graduation."



- Mona G

Another learner, **a single mother working 3 dead-end jobs to make ends meet** expressed how ESSDACK Learning Centers and Alison changed her trajectory:

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“I went from working 2-3 dead-end jobs consistently, to working 1 steady job with an income that will provide a sustainable living for my family. Now I have a career, with actual success in my future.”



- Jessica V.

Stories like these exemplify the **emotional depth and life-changing potential of accessible education**. ESSDACK Learning Centers' staff regularly witness learners achieving **remarkable milestones, landing their first jobs, moving beyond minimum-wage roles, or stepping confidently into careers they never imagined possible**. Alison's courses not only **impart practical skills** but also **rebuild self-worth and determination**.

ESSDACK Learning Centers remain committed to amplifying these **stories of empowerment**, working closely with Alison to expand their outreach and impact. Together, they continue to inspire profound personal transformations, one learner at a time.

Quantifying Success

Since partnering with Alison, ESSDACK Learning Centers have successfully impacted hundreds of learners across Kansas and specifically South-Central Kansas. Approximately **82%** of ESSDACK Learning Centers' learners have reported **increased employability and opportunity after completing Alison courses**. Many have transitioned from part-time or temporary positions to permanent roles with **better benefits and salaries**, effectively moving toward **bridging the socio-economic gap** they were previously subjected to without options.

Learner numbers:

- ✔ **33 learners** at ESSDACK Learning Centers have completed a total of **173 Alison courses** as part of their **individual diploma plans** tailored to **specific career paths**.
- ✔ Among this year's graduates, **12 learners completed 105 career-focused Alison courses**, further underscoring the program's role in preparing learners for employment.



Out of our current **28 graduates**, **20** of them are in a training program or have obtained employment directly. **8 have maintained sustainable employment.**

Current graduates have begun pursuing roles in high-demand fields such as:

- ✓ **US Military** - 3 Graduates
- ✓ **Healthcare (Surgery Tech, CNA, Medical Coding, etc)** - 11 Graduates
- ✓ **Welding, Construction, Maintenance, and HVAC** -4 Graduates
- ✓ **Transportation and Logistics** - 2 Graduates
- ✓ **Food Service, Hospitality, and Public Service** - 8 Graduates

Learner Employment Outcomes:

The combined average starting salary for the careers in Kansas listed that are being pursued by our **graduates is \$34,736.71**. That is a **significant increase** from estimates based on **US Career Institute data of \$26,813**.



A Vision for Continued Growth

ESSDACK Learning Centers remain committed to deepening its **partnership with Alison**, actively pursuing future **initiatives to expand course offerings, enhance data-driven student tracking, and amplify learner success stories.**

Ongoing efforts include regular data sharing, capturing powerful learner testimonials, and expanding course availability to meet evolving workforce needs.

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"Together, ESSDACK and Alison are committed to empowering individuals who otherwise may not have the opportunity to take positive steps forward and change their future for the better for their families and future generations. By finding success with ESSDACK-Haysville Learning Cafe and Alison, they are not only having a positive impact on their community, but also future family generations. You can't put a price tag on the value this partnership provides."



Mr. Mark Calvin

Site Director, ESSDACK Learning Centers, USA

Conclusion

ESSDACK Learning Centers' successful collaboration with Alison demonstrates the profound impact of accessible, career-oriented education. By addressing critical workforce development challenges, ESSDACK Learning Centers' approach presents a replicable model for organizations worldwide seeking transformative educational solutions.

ESSDACK Learning Centers and Alison: Empowering Lives, Strengthening Communities, and Building Sustainable Futures Globally.





Together, we're building a future where **education**
and opportunity go hand in hand.