



Brittany Kunda, Ardmore Vocational Director recently sat down with Chris Stemm, General Manager of the Circle K Bakery and Distribution Center to hear what he thought about working with his employees Kelsey Dias and Franklin MacDonald. Kelsey and Franklin receive employment services support from Ardmore.

Hi Chris! Let's get started. Has working with this population changed your perspective towards individuals with disabilities working in the community? How so?

"Yes it has. I believe that anyone who is willing and able to participate in the community should have the opportunity; however, I was not sure of my personal ability to oversee persons with disabilities. I have found while working with Franklin and Kelsey that not only can I give them an opportunity to contribute to the production in my facility, but both are ready, willing, and able to learn in many facets. Both Franklin and Kelsey go above and beyond when it comes to their jobs here with Circle K. ... Kelsey and Franklin have made my job easier...the daily production flows more smoothly and jobs are getting done more frequently than before.

Wonderful! Do you think that Franklin & Kelsey working in the community has had a positive effect? If so, could you give an example?

"I do believe that the job has had a positive effect...both have opened up in communication with myself and with all of my team members. Franklin gets along very well with Mike, the dishwasher, and Kelsey loves working with Brentaya in the kitchen.

We really appreciate your time and are thrilled to be a part of the Circle K team. In closing, how would you say your overall experience has been with Ardmore staff and with the placement of our individuals with Circle K?

My experience has been a positive one. Lori has been an excellent job coach not only with Franklin and Kelsey, but with me as well.

I believe that Kelsey and Franklin are just like many members of my team. They want to help with production, keep the facility clean, and feel wanted and needed just like any other employee. I believe that Kelsey and Franklin have integrated well with my other associates and both feel like they are a part of the team and are helping to make great products here for Circle K.

If you have a business in Summit County that sometimes struggles with your labor force, call us to help you find qualified, dedicated employees that will contribute to the success of your company.

A special thank you to Summitdd who has provided Ardmore with guidance, training and encouragement as we begin providing Employment Services.

