



A Brand New Start Learning Center
3240 Adams Street, Denver, CO 80205
Grades: 7-12
Director: Roderick Johnson
Manager: Michael Mobley

Hope Online's Learning Center at A Brand New Start (ABNS) was founded in 2005 in Denver's Five Points neighborhood. One community native, Roderick Johnson, shocked by the rise in criminal activity and decreasing educational opportunities of his old neighborhood, decided to make a change.

"The idea that most youth want to be in gangs and want to get into trouble is a myth," says Mr. Johnson, Learning Center Director. "For years, I have worked to help youth in the community avoid the area's negative influences. Hope Online provides the best educational option for students who were not successful in their previous schools."

The Hope Online students at ABNS are mostly Hispanic and African American youth. Many have been traumatized as a result of abuse or neglect and were labeled a "problem child" or diagnosed with learning and conduct disorders. The majority of students at ABNS are three to four grade levels behind upon enrollment. Fortunately, Hope Online's curriculum provides each student with an individual learning plan that is customized to the student's specific needs by a highly qualified Hope Online teacher. This quality online instruction, combined with mentor support in a safe environment, affords students the opportunity to build upon the skills they have and move toward proficiency.

One Hope Online student at ABNS reports that although her mom dropped her off at her previous school each morning, she did not attend her classes most days. However, when she enrolled at Hope Online, she developed meaningful relationships with her ABNS mentors. Now, she attends Hope Online at ABNS everyday and inspired her younger brother to be a good student as well. According to Mr. Johnson, "Both brother and sister are steadily progressing toward the academic standards of their grade levels."

At Hope Online at ABNS, creative pursuits deter risky behaviors. Hope Online's core curriculum, complemented by the art, engineering and science technology electives offered at ABNS, are designed to channel students' creative energies in a positive direction. Consequently Mr. Johnson asserts, "These students are developing a heightened sense of self-esteem and an enhanced outlook on life. They've realized that they can learn, and they know the people around them believe in them. We are closing the achievement gap and decreasing the drop out rate."

Learning Center Administration

Roderick Johnson—Learning Center Director

A native of Colorado and the Denver area, Roderick Johnson works determinedly to afford children in Denver's underserved neighborhoods the chance for a quality education. Mr. Johnson gained work experience in a variety of areas, including architectural design, mechanical engineering, and youth treatment counseling. His passion for expanding educational options for Denver youth serves as the foundation of A Brand New Start.

Michael Mobley – Manager

Michael Mobley is a talented mentor and manager at ABNS. He is dedicated to helping his students develop a solid educational foundation. Prior to joining ABNS in 2005, he worked with at-risk youth as a Teacher Assistant and Counselor at the Jefferson Hills Treatment Facility. Mr. Mobley, a Colorado licensed teacher, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in Painting from Metropolitan State College in Denver, CO.

Leopoldo Gallegos – Mentor

Leopoldo Gallegos is an enthusiastic mentor who is dedicated to the academic pursuits of at-risk youth. Since 2005, he has enjoyed coaching Hope Online students at ABNS in mathematics. Mr. Gallegos earned a Certificate in Drafting and Auto CAD from Otero Junior College in La Junta, CO. He is currently in his final year at Metropolitan State College in Denver, CO, completing a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics.

Hope Online Teacher

Robyn Wright – Hope Online Teacher

Robyn Wright is an energetic, passionate Colorado licensed teacher dedicated to serving the academic needs of children. After gaining classroom experience in the Denver, Jefferson County and Adams County school districts, Ms. Wright witnessed the positive impact of online education for students by working as a mentor at a Hope Online Learning Center. Her strong interest in supporting online students led Ms. Wright to join Hope Online as a highly qualified teacher. Ms. Wright earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from the Metropolitan State College in Denver, CO.