

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington

BB was referred to the WIOA Adult program from a local One Stop Partner agency. BB entered the WIOA Adult program unemployed and experiencing homelessness. After entering the WIOA Adult program, BB set a goal to obtain a CDL Class A license. Once BB started training, the WIOA Case Manager (CM) was notified from the training provider that BB was having attendance issues and falling asleep in class.

The WIOA CM contacted BB to provide support and resources to help her overcome the barriers that were impacting her ability to complete training and reaching her goals. BB broke down crying and explained her situation. Not having family support and enduring homelessness with no employment made it impossible to meet her most basic needs and she was enduring hunger often. Mourning the death of her child, living out of her car, shelters not having availability, showering at the gym and with no income to eat a minimum of one meal a day was overwhelming.

In June 2022, the CM attempted to contact BB on several occasions with no success. BB finally reached out to the CM from a local hospital. She reported that the police found her unresponsive, and she was taken to the hospital. As it turned out, BB's sister was picking her up after a few days of hospitalization. BB was allowed to stay with her sister until she was well enough to return to training.

BB was assisted with resume assistance, job leads, resource coordination, motivational support and access to the Workforce Center Resource Room as needed Monday – Friday. Through the WIOA Adult program's Supportive Services, BB was assisted with shelter for a few weeks at a local hotel during the scorching summer months. During that time, BB was able to concentrate on the CDL training and obtained an evening job. BB returned to living out of her car after exceeding her stay at the hotel. Unfortunately, she did not earn enough to pay the daily rate to remain at the hotel.

In July 2022, BB completed her training and obtained the CDL Class-A license. BB continued working in the evenings and living out of her car while in job search. In November 2022, BB obtained employment as CDL Class A Truck Driver working interstate for Western Express earning approximately \$4,000 a month. BB's perseverance along with WIOA supports led to this successful outcome.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck

CC came to RCC in April 2021. He expressed interest in upgrading his CDL license from B to A. He applied to WIOA and was determined eligible. In May 2021, he started his training but found that the training provider was over-enrolling students and seriously under-staffed. After months of frustration, he agreed to change to a different provider. He enrolled in a refresher class in which he had difficulty passing. Then his learner's permit expired. New federal regulations required that CC enroll in an entirely new class, including classroom. Because of his determination, he enrolled in another class and started again. Finally, in October 2022, CC

passed his test and got his CDL-A license. He is employed and doing well and appreciates all that we have done for him.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula

AA came to RCC in June 2022 and expressed interest in CDL training, which is a common request. However, A's situation was much different from any I had ever seen and was amazing, to say the least. He had a heart transplant on February 14th 2022 and a kidney transplant on February 15th 2022. In June, he was ready to prepare for employment. He applied to WIOA and was determined eligible. He started his CDL training in July. During training, he got COVID and, of course, had to make his usual checkup visits with his doctors. He passed his training and received his CDL license in September 2022. Right now, AA is doing some volunteer work and will continue until February when his year is done (as advised by his physicians). AA is doing great and is always thankful for the assistance we provided.

Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

CC is an Adult who just completed the Commercial Driver License program through Eastern Shore Community College's workforce program. CC was employed but wanted to upgrade his skills from bus monitor to driver for the company bus, which would significantly increase his salary. CC enrolled in the CDL full-time class and completed all the requirements to take the over-the-road exam. He passed the test on the first try and obtained his CDL license. CC is now driving for his company and is a full-time employee.

Story #2

MM's company relocated, making him a dislocated worker. Though offered the option to move out of state with the company to maintain employment, he felt it was in the best interest of his family to refuse the offer. He found himself unemployed and without immediate prospects for work in his area for persons with his specific skill set. With a heavy heart, MM visited Eastern Shore Community College for career counseling. After completing an interest assessment and discussing training options and locations, MM determined that CDL training was an employment avenue he wanted to explore. He read over the materials and felt it was a short enough training to get him back to work quickly and provide a wage that was sufficient to support his family financially. MM completed the training, earned his CDL, and went to work shortly after completion. MM's family was happy with his decision to stay local, and MM was thankful too.

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Youth Success Story – George Washington

AJ entered the WIOA Youth program with no paid work experience, disabilities and transportation barriers to employment. He received food service training while in high school. AJ wanted to further explore his interest in the food service industry through participation in a WEX.

AJ participated in a WEX at a small bakery. The repetitive nature of preparing, cooking and decorating processes allowed AJ to learn the production of the products. AJ also kept the pastry display cases full, cleaned the work surfaces and the rest of the kitchen, stocked supplies and stored kitchen items.

After the completion of the WEX, AJ chose to change career paths and to pursue a job in a retail setting. AJ obtained a job at a local Goodwill retail store in October 2022. AJ is learning the entire process from receiving the donated goods at the donation door, to processing the item into the system, to finding just the right place on the rack or shelf in the store front, and seeing the item go home with a new, happy owner.

AJ now enjoys the option of riding the bus or walking to work. AJ has found a job where he can be a help to his community through the Goodwill Mission. He will continue to gain skills by working with his teammates and with the shoppers who come into the store. The WIOA Youth program provided an opportunity for AJ to further enhance his independence and we are very proud of his accomplishments.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck

JB enrolled in the program after some unfortunate legal troubles, and dealing with some difficult behavioral issues in previous employment. When I first met with him, he was polite and serious about making some changes. Throughout his enrollment he has worked extremely hard to overcome the issues he'd been facing. Per his instructor, JB is a pleasure to work with in class and has made a habit of showing up early and being eager to learn. Recently, JB has also secured part-time employment while he continues to work through the welding program.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Middle Peninsula

DL has been a dedicated participant in the WIOA program since she enrolled. She came in with a clear idea of her goals as well as what support she needed to achieve them. After completing her FAFSA and enrolling in the Cyber Security certificate program offered by Rappahannock Community College, she has worked hard in each of her classes, finishing off her first college semester with a grade point average of 3.0.

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore

DD is an OSY who completed Work Experience at Eastern Shore Community College. DD helped in Student Service as a Front Desk Receptionist, student assistant, and filing clerk. DD began the Work Experience with no prior work training and was nervous, but the office staff at Eastern Shore Community College welcomed DD and helped out as much as possible to ease her anxiety. DD gained experience working in an office setting and confidence in a place of employment. DD is seeking employment and has registered to study science at Eastern Shore Community College.

