

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington

Michael entered the WIOA Adult program as a returning citizen with the goal of obtaining a CDL Class A license. It was difficult for Michael to balance his full-time job, family, and CDL training. The motivation to overcome the challenges he faced was the opportunity to better himself and provide greater stability for his family.

Michael obtained his CDL Class A license. Michael went on to complete the resume and job search phase of the program. Michael obtained employment as a local driver earning \$25.50 per hour, paid time off, health benefits and eligible for overtime.

Since his release in 2021, Michael has been working towards rehabilitating his life and assisting others with a background to do the same as a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist. Michael is now approved by the Virginia Department of Corrections to provide peer mentoring to other inmates. FailSafe will be honoring Michael at the 2nd Chance Annual Fundraising Gala in April 2023.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck

Curtis contacted RCC in February 2022 with an interest in CDL and was referred by a previous WIOA student. He had worked seasonally as a chef but desired full-time employment. When the season ended, Curtis applied for unemployment, only to be the victim of fraud. He needed to soon get a job. He met the priority of service guidelines and was enrolled in WIOA. He began training in March 2022 and quickly learned his maneuvers and road skills. He passed his exam in April and, within a couple of weeks, also got his hazmat and tanker endorsements. After research and job search, Curtis was hired by a food service, delivering orders to restaurants. He is doing very well, and now his income has more than tripled what it was a few months earlier. Best of luck to him!

Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula

In 2021, 18-year-old Dartanye came to RCC to inquire about welding. He met the priority of service guidelines and was enrolled in WIOA. Dartanye first attended Stick welding training (SMAW), followed in succession by Mig welding (GMAW), Flux (FCAW), Gas (GTAW) and Pipe (ASME IX). He successfully passed all five levels of welding and earned 5 credentials while in the welding program. In April 2022, Dartanye gained employment as a welder in a local production plant and is still employed there. His supervisor was very pleased with his skills and his work ethic and had nothing but positive things to say about Dartanye. We wish him much success!

Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

Kresha was an Adult who enrolled in the cosmetology training program summer of 2022. In her training, Kresha was dedicated and attended all her classes even when attending was sometimes tumultuous. Kresha received high praise from her instructor for completing assignments with

excellence. She was also applauded for carrying out training hours as specified in the training curriculum, working through each obstacle to completion each time it arose. Kresha has her business plan all thought out and documented with the necessary steps to be a successful entrepreneur. Kresha is currently in the process of taking her state board examination to become a licensed cosmetologist. We are cheering her on!

Story #2

The company LaTysha worked for in Onancock closed its doors without notice, leaving her and her colleagues needing clarification. There was no forewarning, opportunity to ask questions, or next steps. LaTysha visited the Virginia Employment Commission. She needed help navigating the Virginia Workforce Connection website alone and spoke to a representative in person. She learned she was a dislocated worker when she met with the now-retired unemployment insurance representative. The UI representative instructed her to contact Mr. Walker at Eastern Shore Community College to apply for WIOA services.

At application, LaTysha was the single mother of a special needs infant daughter she adopted after serving as her foster mother. LaTysha's birth daughter had already left to attend college. LaTysha desired to participate in Old Dominion University's Applied Behavior Analysis Certification Program in the Department of Communication Disorders & Special Education there. She aimed to pair the ABA certification with her master of education degree. The credential would one day allow her to open a business to serve early childhood-aged children with behavior challenges. LaTysha gained admission to both programs.

LaTysha is still working on her ABA certification as she has had to take time off to care for her special needs daughter and obtain employment. She plans to continue the training classes remaining in the certification and complete the program in December 2023. LaTysha works full-time as an early childhood education teacher for a private school in Hampton Roads.

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Youth Success Story – George Washington

Lorace entered the WIOA Youth program with no previous work experience, learning disabilities, and as an ESL learner with a goal to work with children. Lorace completed the Paraprofessional training available for ESL learners through RARAE. After completing this training, Lorace chose to complete the Hospitality training also provided through RARAE. Lorace also attended weekly meetings with WIOA staff to complete Leadership, Basic Job Skills, and Financial Literacy training.

While completing training, Lorace obtained her first job at McDonalds. Afterwards, WIOA staff identified an employer at a local childcare facility that promotes an all-inclusive workforce and hiring individuals with disabilities. When a position became available at this childcare facility, WIOA staff supported Lorace with the application and interview process which required multiple applications, background checks and fingerprinting. Lorace has demonstrated growth in skills and confidence throughout the program. Her motivation has led to a successful employment outcome of obtaining a full time Teacher Assistant position.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck

Jeremy has shown an interest in computer and multi-media production since enrolling in the WIOA Youth program, he'd been previously enrolled in various computer coding programs via Computer Core and was looking for a way to translate the skills he'd been gaining into work experience, I knew after speaking with him he was the right fit for a local radio station willing to take on a youth intern. Most recently he completed an online course, Code Beats, over YouTube where the participants learned coding techniques through the use of music. At the completion of Code Beats, I introduced the idea of a work experience and he was excited for the opportunity.

After meeting with the representatives from Hot Mix VA Radio, and spending a day job shadowing, he officially began his work experience in late January. Since then, both Jeremy and the radio station manager have made several positive reports about Jeremy's time spent working with them.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Middle Peninsula

Throughout his time in the WIOA Youth program, Warren has struggled to match his interests, and schedule with a training program. After having some trouble preparing for CDL training, we scheduled time to sit down and revisit some of his skills and hobbies, and to consider how his goals have changed over time. During our meeting we were able to work through some barriers that he had previously felt uncomfortable with expressing, and together create a training and career goal that felt more achievable for him. Since meeting, Warren has made the decision to pivot from the CDL training, and focus on another area of interest he kept, Electrical Engineering. Together we decided to match Warren with the SHINE Solar PV Technician Training to work towards his new goal of employment within the Electrical Engineering field. Currently Warren has completed the training prerequisite of obtaining a 10-hour OSHA 10 certificate, and is currently working on the hands-on portion of the Solar PV Installation Certification.

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Le'Naye was an out-of-school youth in the Certified Nurse Aide (C.N.A.) training. Le'Naye started taking classes after enrollment in WIOA and was named one of the best students in her class by the instructors. Le'Naye was a go-getter, continuously checking in with the Case Manager and asking for advice on personal issues and school. Le'Naye finished with one of the best averages in her classes and was awarded the best bedside caregiver during clinical exercises. Le'Naye passed her state board examination and is now a Certified Nursing Assistant. Le'Naye is currently working full-time and recently gave birth to a new baby. We are proud of Le'Naye's commitment to WIOA services and her community.