

### ***Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington***

Josue came to the American Job Center/Virginia Career Works Fredericksburg Center to inquire about the WIOA Adult program. He was working part-time and under-employed, with experience primarily in the food service industry. Josue was seeking full-time employment and requested the assistance of the WIOA program to help him meet his career goal of becoming a Licensed Barber. Josue began the 1110-hour Barber training course at Seward’s Barber Academy in Fredericksburg, VA on May 30, 2023. Seward’s Barber Academy is a combined barber school and barber shop. Josue had the opportunity to hone his craft and cut customers’ hair while enrolled in training which led to developing his skills and securing his own clientele. Josue also started posting his barbing skills through social media, which further increased his client base.

Josue recently completed the 1100-hour Barber training and passed the written test and state exam before earning his Commonwealth of Virginia Barber license on January 31, 2024. Josue currently works full time at a local barber shop in the region. He still has a future goal to open his own Barber shop once he is financially able. Therefore, the WIOA Case Manager (CM) provided guidance and resources to Josue to assist him when he is ready to start his small business. CM provided and coordinated services with the Small Business Administration (consultation) located at Mary Washington Economic Development Center, HR Block for personal/business taxes and services and GCFlearnfree.org for financial literacy tools.

### ***Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck***

In July 2022, Allie came to RCC and expressed interest in training. She was a single mother of three, worked full-time and was receiving SNAP benefits. She was determined eligible for WIOA as an Adult. Allie had been working as a Patient Access Representative at a local senior care facility. She wanted to enhance her skills so she enrolled in Medication Aide, successfully completed the program and received her license as a Medication Aide. Next, she enrolled in the Patient Care Technician (PCT) training. This program includes nurse aide and clinical medical assistant. She successfully completed this program as well. Allie completed her training in May 2023 and started a new job as a PCT on July 9, 2023. With this new job, her pay increased \$3.50 hour plus she receives full benefits. She has done very well. Congrats!

### ***Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula***

In September 2023, Abe was referred to RCC for possible WIOA training. He was eligible to work in the United States and was eligible to participate in WIOA. He had earned a bachelor’s degree in Computer Information Systems. However, like many clients, he did not have the experience needed to actually get hired. So, he settled for working as a chef at an Italian restaurant.

In researching training options, he decided he would like to enroll with Carolinas Solutions Group in their Broadband Fiber Optics Career Path program. This program includes three internationally recognized certifications:

1. Certified Premises Cabling Tech
2. Certified Fiber Optic Tech
3. Certified Outside Plant Tech

Abe began his training on September 25th and earned certifications in all three by November 18th. Abe is still working at his restaurant job but started an “apprenticeship” job with his training provider. They are working on a project for 5 Below and will likely be doing this for six to twelve months. He is

very pleased with his training and expects to learn much more with the apprenticeship. Congratulations and best of luck!

*Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore*

***Story #1***

Shakora is an adult participant currently in the 2nd quarter of follow-up. The training provider, Eastern Shore Academy of Cosmetology notified the program that Shakora passed the cosmetology state board examination this quarter. It took a while, but Shakora did not give up. So, not only is she a licensed cosmetologist, but she is also a certified braiding stylist, and she holds a certification as a microblading technician. Shakora loves the beauty profession! Shakora opened her own salon, “On Fleek Braiding Boutique” a couple of months ago to help her customers show their inner beauty on the outside. Shakora is masterful at giving her clientele the best beauty advice based on her acquired knowledge and education. If you want to change things up for spring, call Shakora and she will fix you up. This aesthetician is an entrepreneur with the skills to shoot to the stars. If you are ever in Exmore, Virginia, look her up!

***Story #2***

LaTysha, a dislocated worker (currently in follow-up), was enrolled in the applied behavioral analysis certification program at Old Dominion University at the training would extend her career pathway from early elementary school teacher to applied behavior analyst (ABA). She aspired to earn the certification to open her own business serving children with disabilities outside the school setting as the timeframe to work with children was limited and often did not prove beneficial with strict school district time constraints. LaTysha worked hard and was doing well until the COVID-19 pandemic. After that life became difficult with childcare, and all the obstacles adoptive single parents face with a special needs child. LaTysha had to put the ABA training on hold and started teaching again, reserving her evenings for caring for the unique needs of her daughter. Today, LaTysha assists other parents who must develop and learn specialized ways to deliver love and care to the special children in their lives. Right now, it is a volunteer service, but when time and opportunity come together for LaTysha to complete her ABA certification, she will complete it and will revisit her entrepreneurial dream of opening her own ABA business. We are rooting for LaTysha to complete her goal.

***Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Youth Success Story – George Washington***

William came to the American Job Center/Virginia Career Works Fredericksburg Center to learn more about the WIOA Youth Program and its offerings. He entered the WIOA Youth program with barriers to employment which included a disability and minimal work experience with limited job retention. William’s goal was to participate in a WIOA Youth Work Experience (WEX) to enhance his work skills and gain employment. William preferred to participate in a WEX at a local Goodwill store located close to where he lived. Williams’ WEX goals included enhancing workplace communication, time management, punctuality, customer service, and response to supervision.

At the conclusion of the WEX, William expressed that he wanted to obtain a job at the Goodwill store. The WIOA Case Manager supported William throughout the job application and interview process, as well as during his onboarding process. William obtained a part-time job at Goodwill as a Retail Associate. In just two short months, William received a job promotion from part time Retail Associate to full time Retail Associate. William stated that he wants to continue to grow in his job at Goodwill. William’s new goal is to work towards becoming eligible for a promotion to a Team Lead position.\

### ***Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck***

In July 2022, 21-year-old Warren came to RCC with a desire to get some training. He really wanted to be a truck driver, but he had difficulty passing his CDL learner's test. One of the requirements to be enrolled in CDL training is that the student must obtain a CDL learner's permit prior to training. An alternative option was Solar Installation Technician training. He was enrolled in that training. He earned his OSHA certification but was unable to complete the hands-on training. After that, Warren attended and completed the WIOA Youth Summer Program hosted by STEAMBridge. Regardless of other training options, Warren still wanted to drive a truck. Eventually, he was partnered with DARS. He successfully completed and attained his CDL training and is now employed with a local demolition contractor. Because of his determination, Warren is now a truck driver. Congratulations and best of luck to him!

### ***Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Middle Peninsula***

DayKwan was homeless, staying with various friends and family with no involvement from his parents, when he came to the WIOA Youth Program at RCC. He was seeking direction and a way to improve his life by building a solid career path. After career exploration and goal setting, he saw welding as a viable career path with the goal of eventually working at Newport News Shipbuilding. He was enrolled in the welding program and participated in career readiness to become ready for a work experience placement. He was placed with a local screen manufacturing company where he gained valuable work experience. He excelled in this work experience opportunity and was able to easily gain employment after completing the welding program with Lowes. His case manager worked long and hard with DayKwan to help him apply at Newport News Shipbuilding. After a long and daunting process and a year of following up on his application, he finally was hired and is jubilant in his new career!

### ***Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore***

Owen successfully completed a work experience activity at Eastern Shore Regional Library and Heritage Center working as a library aid volunteer. In Owen's time with the library, he mainly focused on shelving returned library materials and collection maintenance work through general tidying and reshelving misshelved items. Owen also assisted with weekly teen gaming programs and was introduced to the library's process of searching the catalog for and comparing donated items with a matching item in the collection. Owen's shelving work demonstrates a consistent carefulness in making sure library items are accurately located, which greatly improves a patron's experience when browsing or searching the collection. With clear instruction at the beginning of a new task, Owen's commitment to accurately and successfully completing his work is evident, and his focus on the job at hand results in steady productivity. Charle, Owen's site supervisor stated, "I have been consistently impressed with Owen's diligent work and attention to detail and believe that Owen would be a valuable library team member." We are proud of Owen and are waiting with hopeful expectation to see the next step in his pursuit of becoming a librarian.