

Virginia Employment Commission Success Story

Initial meeting was with Ms. IT who has been unemployed since 2016. Ms. IT was a dislocated worker who had exhausted her benefits, was receiving food stamps and was still looking for work as a Network Technician.

Ms. It had been looking everywhere for work. As time went on her security clearance became inactive and her credentials became outdated.

She enrolled herself at New Horizons and began taking a Security+ class that she paid for personally. New Horizons shared with Ms. It information regarding the WIOA program.

After learning about the WIOA program, she became very interested in learning more about the program. Ms. It attended all of the workshops and felt they were very useful.

When we had our initial meeting she was asking if the WIOA program to pay for the class she had signed up for a New Horizons. I explained that was not the process, but we could look into other classes that would enhance the skills she already had. She then enrolled in the Certified Ethical Hacker class, completed the class and got her certification

Ms. It was very emotional because she could not find employment and there were many phone calls where all she did was cry and I would counsel her. The issue was she did not have a current security clearance.

In her job search, Ms. It decided to contact her former company, YOH-D & Z Federal Services. They were willing to hire her while her security clearance was being updated. She was hired as an IT junior and didn't make as money as she would have liked, but at least she had her foot in the door and could move from there.

Thank you WIOA for the Certified Ethical Class!

Virginia Employment Commission Success Story

Client has been employed full-time in her entire life and have worked for the US DoD for 12 years and have worked the past 19 years at Peumasend Creek Regional Jail as the Information Systems Supervisor. With the facility in the process of being shutdown, client have looked at the WIOA program through the SEVA-Rapid Response Team, as an excellent opportunity to further expand client's education in conjunction with work experience; in order to better prepare for reemployment. Client's experience in management of personnel, assets and resources, client needed relevant credentials to remain marketable and competitive in the job market.

Since enrollment into the Project Management field as, I realized that I needed support and the WIOA program provided much support to enroll in classes to provide the foundations but also provided great insight to employment and effective job search. The staff at the Workforce Center in Fredericksburg provided many invaluable tools, workshops, and resources.

Thanks again for all the support and encouragement throughout, as well as the processing involved for the tuition and exam reimbursement. Having my PMP license, I am now more marketable and competitive in the job market and I am considering applying for positions in the military; since that is where I initially started my career. I considered this a great opportunity to prepare for the future.

Thank you again for your involvement in my career and family.

Job Assistance Center Inc. – Warsaw Success Story

A 19-year-old young woman was enrolled in WIOA in December 2016. She was interested in the CNA program and thought she may eventually want to enroll in the RN program. She completed all WIOA requirements and began training. She earned her license in June 2017. She re-located to the Fredericksburg area and was quickly hired at an assisted living facility. She described it as “the absolute best job ever”. However, a month later, she left that job due to a negative working environment. She was so impacted by the situation that she backed away from the nursing program. She soon found another CNA job that she liked much better and is still employed there. She is now a sitter with hospital patients and was recently raised to priority status. She loves her job but, for now, does not intend to pursue nursing as her career. She is working on her associate’s while deciding which career she will choose. She will continue to work as a CNA and will always have those skills to take with her.

Job Assistance Center Inc. – Shacklefords Success Story

A 37 years old woman was enrolled into WIOA in September of 2017. She was a single mother of three that had been working part time and was also receiving SNAP benefits. She was interested in a career in the Health care field and in securing full time employment. Once enrolled she completed all WIOA requirements and started training. She completed a Nurse Aide training program. She secured her State Board license, secured a job as a Nurse Aide at Riverside and also enrolled into the medication aide program. She has now completed the medication aide certificate program, obtained her state board license for medication aide and has received a promotion and a raise. She is no longer receiving SNAP benefits and his very happy and satisfied with her current career progress. She hopes to continue with her education and hopefully someday become a RN.

Eastern Shore Community College Success Story

“Layout” participated in the WIOA adult program and trained to be a medical assistant. Graduation was in August and Layout not only completed training but also earned several credentials within the program including a medical billing & coding certification, medical office administrative assistant certification and of course the medical assistant certification itself all through the National Center for Competency Testing. Even with all of that to her credit Layout could not find a job.

Staff invited Layout to revamp her resume with staff assistance and to participate in WIOA sponsored mock interviews. Layout willingly accepted the invitation and was thrilled with her new resume and newly gained interview techniques. Knowing the medical market here was already flooded with her resumes Layout decided to begin networking to find out exactly what employers were looking for in medical personnel. After making a few positive contacts Layout was offered a job with a private employer to work as lead caregiver to their aged mother. The job is part-time for now, but will become full-time in June as she will be assigned as caregiver to another aging family member and be given an insurance cost stipend. Layout is elated because the job also comes with bonuses and she'll be able to gain valuable work experience and utilize her medical assistant training!

Employment Resources Inc. Youth Success Story

D.F. enrolled in the WIOA Youth program in January 2018 as an Out of School client. She was referred to ERI by social services. D.F. was eligible due to her being low-income, basic skills deficient in math, and a single parent. Her main goal was to complete CNA training so that she would be able to enter into the healthcare industry. Her case manager created a service strategy that allowed D.F. to receive CNA training and also receive math remediation. D.F. was an excellent participant, she was on time for all of her classes including her remediation classes.

D.F. completed her CNA training at the end of February, passed her licensure exam on March 17, 2018, and increased her basic skills in math. She has obtained employment with a local nursing home as a CNA and is doing well in her new career.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story

TE enrolled in RCC's Youth WIOA Program after he graduated from high school. He had completed training in construction through the Northern Neck Technical Center while in high school but desired to pursue welding. His goal was to obtain a job at the shipyard in Newport News.

A GAIN assessment showed that he was basic skills deficient in math, having tested at a 6th grade level. He attended tutoring through WIOA twice a week and post-tested at a 12th grade level within four months. He also obtained a Silver CRC.

WIOA then worked with TE to enroll him in a series of welding classes and provided supportive services assistance with his textbook and required welding supplies. He successfully completed all six welding courses despite ongoing challenges with transportation. In February 2017, TE obtained employment with Walmart and saved his money towards purchasing a vehicle. However, he never gave up on his goal to work at the shipyard. When representatives from the Newport News Shipyard conducted a job fair at Rappahannock Community College, TE interviewed with Huntington Ingalls. He was offered a job as sheet metal worker with a starting

salary of \$18.00 per hour. He is scheduled to attend new hire orientation in a few weeks and is very excited to be realizing his employment goal.

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Story

In School Youth Success Story

“Insert” was a high school senior with a two-year-old son who successfully completed high school despite missing many days due to childcare issues. Insert was an honor student until she began missing days from school. Staff tried to encourage Insert to utilize the supportive services available through WIOA for childcare, but she was unwilling to let a stranger licensed or not provide care for her child. So when her mother was unable to babysit she would have to miss school. Insert found it hard to catch up on school work she missed when she was absent so her grades suffered. Out of sheer grit and continuous guidance and encouragement from her career coach Insert was found eligible for graduation.

Insert entered the workforce immediately after graduation, but has found that she needs another credential and or degree to be able to take care of her baby and herself financially. Insert has decided to come to the college to take the placement test so she can begin to pursue the dream she had of being a nurse before becoming a mom.

Out of School Youth Success Story

“Design” is a twenty-year-old single mother of a one-year-old who enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant program in the fall of 2017. While in high school Design was an honor student who excelled in science and mathematics and had plans to attend nursing school to become a registered nurse. After learning that she was pregnant Design decided to put her goal to become a registered nurse on hold. Because she had already successfully completed the college placement test, Design adjusted her plan and signed up for the C.N.A. program instead.

Upon completion of the WIOA application process and meeting with the C.N.A. coordinator on campus to complete prerequisites for enrollment Design began classes. With childcare provided by a trusted family member there were no issues with missing classes and Design was also able to find a part-time job as a cashier. After completing the requirements for graduation Design signed up to take the C.N.A. state boards. She passed and applied for a job and was hired at the place where she completed her clinical hours.