

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington

EE entered the WIOA program in March of 2018, wanting to pursue Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) training and licensing. The WIOA Career Services Specialist met with EE, who was receiving public assistance and determined her eligible as an Adult. She chose Chamber’s Training Academy as a provider and was fully funded for her training. However, EE’s life planted a lemon tree in her way, she lost her dependable daytime child care and was unable to start her course. She fell out of contact with the WIOA team.

In July 2018 a new WIOA provider picked up her case and while reviewing files, the Career Services Specialist realized her course had been paid for. The Career Services Specialist contacted EE, who was hesitant to talk to the Career Services Specialist and was concerned about not taking the courses and if there would be any recourse for her not following through. She stated she had not been answering calls because she was worried, she had disappointed the previous WIOA Career Services Specialist.

The Career Services Specialist asked EE if she was still interested in the CNA training. She excitedly stated she was, but was wondering if Chamber’s Training Academy had night courses, because her childcare situation during the day was still unreliable. She was also concerned about whether Chamber’s Training Academy would allow her to start, since she had been set up before and never showed up to classes. The Career Services Specialist told EE they would contact Chamber’s Training Academy and see if they have night classes and inquire as to if they would still honor the payment from the previous provider.

The Career Services Specialist reached out to Chamber’s Training Academy and found out they did indeed have an evening program. After some consideration Chamber’s Training Academy also agreed to allow EE to start and honored the previous provider’s payment, as it was entered into their system under EE’s name.

EE began her course in late August 2018 and worked her way through the night course. She had a few struggles that led to some remedial training from the Chamber’s Training Academy staff and also completed her CPR certification. She finished her clinical rotations and graduated from her course in early February 2019.

EE became employed as a Certified Nursing Assistant for an in-home care company after completing the CNA training. EE states she is enjoying working with her clients and is happy with her current career path. She is grateful that the WIOA program gave her a second chance to complete her training.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck



In February 2019, D. applied for services. He had worked as a refuse driver for the last 10 years but wanted to earn his CDL-A to enhance his skills and earn more income. He quickly completed all program requirements. At one time, he had enrolled directly with CDS but dropped out after 1 week because he was not able to support his family while in training. This time, he had a plan and was ready! He had saved enough money to allow him to be unemployed for the month of training. He was determined eligible for WIOA funding and was enrolled into CDL training.

D. began training on 2/25/19 and passed his exam on 3/27/19. Within 2 weeks, he started a new job and is enjoying a \$6.00 an hour increase. I received an email from him with a picture of his truck and a caption, “This is what I drive now.”

Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula

TI is a true success story as a participant in the WIOA program. It has been rewarding to witness the transformation in her demeanor and outlook as she worked her way through RCC’s CDL training program.

TI’s husband is currently incarcerated leaving her as a single mother of one daughter and solely responsible for all the family’s debts and costs of living. TI, herself, had legal problems from 20 years ago leaving her with a felony on her record. TI spent 5 years cleaning houses for a cleaning company making minimum wage and obtaining minimum hours. Six months prior to hearing about our grant program, TI was helping an elderly man on her street do errands and household chores for fifty dollars a week as she had lost her job as a house cleaner. TI relied on Social Services to assist with food.

TI always showed gratitude when interacting with her Career Services Specialist. She often thanked her case manager for providing monies for the training as well as the supportive services such as transportation assistance in receiving gas cards. TI attended all of her classes during the training and put forth her best effort in gaining the necessary skills to obtain her CDL licensure. The CDL instructor informed the case manager that TI was the top driver in the class and had a photographic memory when being taught new skills. TI tested and obtained her CDL license on her first attempt!

TI’s employment future looks bright as she has a second interview with a local construction company as a dump truck driver and another interview with a company driving a tractor trailer, which she says would be her first choice. Having received grant monies and the opportunity to excel in a career interest, TI is well on her way to self-sufficiency.

Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

OO is an adult who recently just obtained his Class A driver’s license. OO came into the training on disability income but wanted to get back in the workforce. OO said that he didn’t want to sit home, but do a training that he always wanted to do to make an honest living. OO enrolled in the full-time class and passed his licensure test on the first trip over the road. OO now works for a company that delivers merchandise up and down the East Coast.

Story #2

EE is a DW who just finished his HVAC training in May. EE started the training in fall 2018 after a substantial closing of his place of employment. EE passed his EPA certification tests in the Fall Semester to help boost his chances of becoming more employable. Before the close of the school year, EE was able to find a place of employment in HVAC part-time and plans working full-time in HVAC by next year.

SkillSource Group Youth Success Story – George Washington

JH, a 20-year old male from Spotsylvania, Virginia, enrolled in the *SkillSource* Career Focus Initiative on December 6, 2019. The Career Focus Initiative is part of the WIOA Youth Program in Area #13 and the George Washington Sub Area, including the City of Fredericksburg and the counties of Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George and Caroline, all within the Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board,

Inc. JH had been working since he was 16; first as a driver for a Party Store, and second as a materials handler in a warehouse, driving to Culpeper, VA daily for an hourly wage of \$12/hr.

JH married at age 18, and with no High School Diploma, came to the Fredericksburg Career Works Center to ask about a career in commercial truck driving. He was enrolled in the Commercial Driving School program and began weekend classes January 5, 2019. He continued to work full-time, and attended weekend classes until April 21, 2019. He also came into the Workforce Center late afternoons and worked on his basic skills, computer literacy, and interviewing with his case manager. He agreed to enroll in GED classes once he was done with the CDL, and making more money for his family.

JH completed his CDL training and testing with a 94% average, and received his certificate and his Virginia Commercial Driving License April 22, 2019. He worked on applying to several CDL positions in the region during and after training, and some were hesitant to hire him until he turned 21. (7/3/19). JH interviewed with Pepsi Co, in Fredericksburg, and the interview went well; he began his new career June 24, 2019, with a beginning training salary of \$50,000 (\$24.00 per hour), doubling his current income. JH has since enrolled in GED classes.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck

JH came to the RCC Workforce Department, as he was interested in welding. He was referred to WIOA Youth Services and was determined eligible for the program due to a learning disability. JH completed welding courses in Shielded Metal, Gas Metal, Gas Tungsten, and Flux Core Arc welding. He received credentials in Gas Metal and Flux Core welding. WIOA case manager provided ongoing support and guidance. WIOA provided funding for all of his courses as well as purchasing his shield, goggles, gloves, glasses, and steel-toed boots. Upon completing his training, he knew that he was not interested in doing mass production welding. He worked at a non-welding job until he became employed with a local specialty welding shop. He now works on major contracts such as repairing fish boats, creates decorative metal creations for private customers, and does repair work for small businesses. He is enjoying his work greatly. He Began employment there in August 2018 and remains employed there today.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Middle Peninsula

DW was a senior at Middlesex High when he was referred to the WIOA program. He wanted to go into the nursing program at RCC. After graduation from high school he enrolled in our WIOA youth services program. He was also co-enrolled in RCC's POWER-UP program. The POWER-UP program is a fifteen-week cohort-based education and employment program. He completed 7-weeks of job readiness and an 8-week CNA course. In keeping with his goal to further his education, he enrolled in a Medication Aide course. He has completed that also. He is currently employed and he is very grateful for the help he has received.

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

SS is an OSY that recently graduated in May with a degree in Electricity. Although SS came to college with some learning disabilities, that still didn't stop SS from coming to class and working hard. SS received a lot of awards in High School and the similar field of Electricity and brought that confidence to college. SS has elected to enroll in a couple more classes for the fall 2019 to keep his skills up to par.

Story #2

After living in many foster homes for the last three years, Y.M. graduated from high school in June 2019. Although Y.M. had a stable living situation during his senior year, things took a turn for the worse soon after school ended. Y.M. found himself without a home and sleeping at friend's houses or in cars each night. One of Y.M.'s teachers learned about his situation and invited him to come live with his family, but it would require Y.M. to "earn his keep" on the family farm. Since Y.M. has moved to his teacher's family farm, he has learned how to work on the farm, complete daily chores, and has discovered he likes working with animals! Y.M. continues to work with his WIOA Case Manager, and is planning to attend college in the fall to study a health-care related career.