

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington

JJ came to the WIOA program to pursue her CDL Class A. JJ was working as a patient care aide and wanted an opportunity to make more money to provide for her family. JJ had five children and a great support system at home.

WIOA staff and JJ spoke at length about the need for new truck drivers to get over-the-road training before working more local routes. JJ was adamant and motivated to become a driver and agreed that she wanted to go over-the-road. JJ entered training after passing her drug screen and physical and then completed the in-class portion of the training.

However, when she went to take the test for her CDL Class A learner's permit, JJ found out during her permit testing appointment that she had a medical condition that made it so she would not be cleared for her permit test. JJ was extremely upset and the WIOA staff supported her and encouraged her to follow-up with a doctor about treatment. This medical issue delayed her permit testing and her training for several months. She was sent to a specialist to receive treatment for the medical concern. The WIOA team kept JJ's spirits up and continued to support her until the specialist deemed the medicine and therapy a success. JJ was able to get approval from her doctor and the DMV to retake her permit test.

She continued her course until Covid-19 struck and she once again found her training delayed. She was at the very end of her road training when CDS shut down for a short period of time. WIOA staff continued to support JJ through this uncertain time, assisting her with job search and narrowing down potential companies that she wished to apply for and editing her resume to fit her new skillset. CDS reopened to individuals who needed their testing completed and had made agreements with the DMV to do the license testing on-site. JJ was able to complete her training and take her test in order to obtain her license.

JJ passed with flying colors and was hired immediately by a transport company. She has been making trips across the US to the West Coast and back transporting vehicles and machinery. She takes one trip per week and is home with her family on weekends. She is extremely happy with the position and the compensation she receives per trip has allowed her to provide fully for her family and even start planning for the future.

Despite her medical setbacks and Covid-19 putting delays in her training, JJ is successful.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck

In September 2019, E. came into RCC and applied to WIOA. She is a single mother and met all priority of service guidelines. E. was not employed and was interested in RCC's "Principles of Hospitality and Tourism" program. She was enrolled, began her training in October and completed it in November 2019. She was an excellent student and earned five certificates, all of which focused on customer service. Those certificates were:

- Certified Guestroom Attendant
- Certified Restaurant Server

- Certified Front Desk Representative
- Certified Guest Service Professional Golden Opportunities
- Certified Guest Services Professional Making Connections

E. is now employed at Food Lion as a cashier and will be cross training in other departments. I feel certain that her customer service excellence will serve her well in whatever career she may have.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula

LL came to the Workforce Development Office seeking training in welding. LL was the single father of four children and sharing an apartment with his father. LL was not working and faced barriers to employment, as he had unreliable transportation. LL was eligible for and enrolled in the WIOA program to provide the occupational skills training he needed. LL attempted to get employment as a welder with a local trailer manufacturer to work at night and get his training during the day at a nearby welding training center. Soon after LL's employment offer his means of transportation fell through and he was unable to go to work. LL was able to find transportation from a neighbor, however, to continue his occupational skills training even though he was not working. LL completed two of his welding classes before once again experiencing transportation issues causing him to miss his third welding session. LL was able to get his transportation squared away as he purchased his own vehicle and enrolled in the next available welding class. LL gained employment with a union in Richmond, VA that agreed to provide him training for his remaining credentials needed. LL completed 3 out of 5 classes in the RCC welding program and states he would never have gotten the union job without having gained credentials in those three areas. LL stated that the employer saw his training as a plus and deciding factor in hiring him. LL expressed sincere appreciation that his training and the WIOA grant enabled him to go from unemployed father of four to acquiring a union job in his career field.

Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

BB is an Adult who has just completed her C.N.A. training. BB came to the program wanting a change of career after working at a fast-food chain for a couple of years. BB knew that nursing was the field that she wanted to complete. Despite the interruption of COVID-19, BB still managed to complete her hours to sit for the state boards. BB has passed her C.N.A. state board test and now has a C.N.A. license. BB is a single mother with 2 kids and now has career where she can support her kids. BB now has a job as C.N.A.

Story #2

CC worked for a home improvement company for twenty-six years, but due to a drastic lull in business the company was forced to close its doors. That led CC to relocate to the Eastern Shore. CC secured a job as a technician in the electrical department for a rendering and recycling company where he worked for approximately twenty years as the lead electrician. After CC was notified that the company would be closing, he visited the local Virginia Employment

Commission. As a dislocated worker he was referred to the WIOA program for services. CC enrolled in and completed electrical training at Eastern Shore Community College in 2019, purchased a business license and opened his own home improvement business. At his follow-up interview, CC reported that his home improvement business is growing and that required him to hire two full-time and two part-time staff. One of the part-time staff is a master electrician and the other part-time staff is a journeymen electrician. CC is learning more electrical skills and studying to take the electrical licensure examination in the spring of 2020. CC promised to keep us posted on his progress.

SkillSource Group Youth Success Story – George Washington

NN is a 23-year-old male who enrolled in The Bay Consortium WIOA Youth Program in October 2018, while working in the fall pumpkin patch, Miller Farms, in Spotsylvania County. He had a high school diploma, and badly wanted a career, but was not sure how to get there. He was interested in working outside, possibly construction or even as a game warden. One of the Partner staff at the Fredericksburg Workforce Center referred him to the SkillSource program for young adults.

NN was very happy to hear that the program offered career readiness and help with job search. He soon attended computer classes offered through the Center at Goodwill. He participated in a Leadership Seminar facilitated by the program's Project Director and a Financial Workshop facilitated through United Way. His confidence continued to increase.

He worked with his Case Manager on a current resume and attended a large job fair at the Center 3 weeks into the program. NN was a very pleasant, positive young man, who simply had some learning disabilities with an IEP in high school. He also struggled with anxiety and needed help finding and following the right path.

He was hired on the spot at the job fair by a home improvement company, who were impressed with NN's demeanor and his sense of a strong work ethic. Over his period of employment, the owner of the company called the Case Manager twice to let her know he had given NN a raise due to his hard work.

NN worked for 1 ½ years and decided to look for another opportunity where there could be a chance for advancement, since this company was relatively small. He called his Case Manager and worked on a resignation letter He applied and was interviewed and hired quickly by Stafford County in the Transportation Department. His job was to make repairs and check systems equipment throughout the county. To start he received higher amount of pay per hour than in the job he held. This salary provided him with the opportunity to move into his apartment and to be self- sufficient.

NN worked for the County for one year and was ready to apply for a better position when he received a call from a Federal Government contractor to interview for a Security Technician, to install secret security equipment in government facilities. From his past work experiences, coupled with glowing references and a great interview, rewarded NN with a job offer at double

the pay he was currently bringing home. His Security Clearance is now being processed and he has noted he thinks he has found his career.

NN still “checks in” monthly with his WIOA Youth Case Manager because he states, “I find myself calling her when I need advice, or to give her new information, or just because the paperwork said I had to....”

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck

K. began taking classes part-time at RCC in the fall of 2013. She continued until the spring of 2016, after which it became too expensive to continue. Although her husband and her made too much income to qualify for financial aid, her medical and other related expenses did not leave enough money to pay for tuition and books. Despite her 3.45 GPA, she could not afford to continue to pursue her education. In 2019, the youth case manager became acquainted with K. within the community and learned that she was pregnant with her first child. K. had commented on social media that she desired to return to college and was determined to do so one day. After some discussion, K. enrolled in the Youth WIOA Program. She had completed about 60% of her degree at that time. She is now on track to graduate in the summer of 2021. She currently has a 3.47 GPA, cares for her young child and has created a small home business. She is looking forward to participating in a work experience in the near future. K. has even decided to pursue a bachelor’s degree online upon graduation from RCC as well as pursue employment. CM is working with K. to research schools and apply for scholarships. This young lady has the intelligence and determination to go far.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Middle Peninsula

In the beginning of March, B. was brought into the WIOA office by his former bus driver/friend. He is a former foster child and his bus driver had befriended him and provided some guidance in his life. She encouraged him to learn a trade. He currently works as a laborer but showed much interest in becoming a welder and working at the shipyard someday. The case manager worked with the college but was informed that he would not be eligible for the college’s Great Expectations foster student program. Thus, after completing the required paperwork and assessments, B. was enrolled in WIOA and placed in shielded metal arc welding (SMAW). His instructor and case manager remained in communication and B. was doing quite well in class. However, not long after the course began, it was paused due to COVID-19. B. waited patiently for class to resume. The case manager worked with B. during the pause to provide community resources and job fair information. Finally, he was able to resume, and complete, his SMAW welding course. He made friends with two other Youth WIOA participants and they supported each other throughout the course and break. He is now enrolled in gas metal arc welding and is excited for that course to begin in early October. B. has the desire and ability to be successful and now also has new friends and the case manager to encourage him along the way.

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

I began working with BM in the fall of 2019. She had a rough couple of years in high school but she was determined to make her senior year the best she could-of course until COVID hit. BM had several classes online in addition to her school classes. She passed them with no problem. In addition, she was working at a local restaurant and helping out her mom who had some health issues.

BM graduated from high school, spending the last three months of school completing classes virtually due to the pandemic. We completed her application so that she could attend ESCC for Medical Assisting and she registered for fall classes.

She also applied for a second job at Dollar General and is waiting to hear back. She has a great work ethic and is trying to juggle everything on her plate.

Story #2

AA is an OSY who completed her Medical Assistant and graduated in August. AA was working for a chicken plant and decided to something different. She enrolled last fall completed all of the requirements despite COVID-19. AA graduated from the program and has a few hours left to complete before she obtains her Medical Assistant degree. She has a job opportunity in order after she completed her remaining her hours.