

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington

AA was desperately searching for work because he didn't earn enough money to make ends meet as a Landfill Gate Attendant. During the pandemic, times were very difficult for him and he was not able to maintain his car and fell short on meeting his basic needs. One day while conducting his job search, he stumbled across a person who told him about the WIOA program.

AA met with WIOA staff to discuss his service options and was found eligible for the WIOA Adult program. Throughout the eligibility process, AA was openly concerned about his past felony record and how this barrier made it difficult for him to gain employment.

WIOA staff supported AA in registering for CDL training to pursue his goal of working in the trucking industry. AA finished his training and obtained his CDL Class A License in just over 90 days. Afterwards, WIOA staff supported AA to revise his resume and provided him with job listings.

During AA's job search, a local employer reached out to RGI regarding their hiring practices that included employment for re-entry citizens. AA submitted the application online and shortly afterwards was scheduled an interview. AA stated he was open about his past at the interview and they were willing to give him the opportunity despite his background.

AA is now gainfully employed full time with benefits at a local trucking company earning a six-figure income and is pursuing his goal of purchasing his own truck. WIOA staff also provided resource information to AA to support him in pursuing his goal of becoming a first-time homeowner.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck

In February 2022, AA. came to RCC to inquire about CDL training. He applied to WIOA and was determined eligible. His plan was to complete CDL training first and then enroll in the lineman program at Southside Virginia Community College. Although CDL is one of the credentials included in the lineman program, he figured he could train Monday through Thursday for the other credentials. On Fridays when CDL was taught, he could work because he already had his CDL license. He planned to work Friday through Sunday every weekend, and he met his goal. He successfully completed both programs and worked evenings through CDL training and weekends through lineman training. By the third week of lineman school, AA. received a job offer from Dominion Power. His awesome work ethic was apparent to all who worked with him. Today, AA. is working full-time with Dominion and doing very well. He always responds to calls and emails and always expressed thanks for all we did to help him.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula

In February, BB. came to RCC with an interest in CDL training. She applied to WIOA and was determined eligible. She was working for a construction company, and they wanted her to get her CDL-A license. She soon passed her learner's test as well as her DOT physical. She worked a while to save up money because she would not be paid during training. In May, she was enrolled in training. She did great for the most part but had difficulty with maneuvers. She was determined to succeed. She missed one whole week of training because she needed to earn more money to get her through. Finally, on 7/28/22, BB. passed her DMV test. She was so happy! Her determination had paid off. She continues to work for the same employer but now earns approximately \$6.00 more per hour. BB. has always expressed thanks for all WIOA did for her.

Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

PP is an Adult who enrolled in the CDL program at ESCC. PP wanted to obtain a CDL because, as a bus monitor, he worked for a local agency but couldn't drive a bus due to a CDL licensure requirement. PP enrolled in the CDL training part-time class over the Summer so he could continue to work his regular job. PP received excellent reviews and the instructor complimented PP on his ability to learn and follow directions. PP completed the training in the late Summer and passed the CDL trucking driving test on the first try. PP currently works for the local agency as a licensed CDL bus driver.

Story #2

JJ was a DW who graduated with a Business Degree in Management after being laid off from a job. JJ worked in another state while completing his business classes and then relocated back to the state of Virginia when the temporary position ended. After graduating from Eastern Shore Community College, JJ went a few months without finding employment. JJ recently received a job offer from a company based in Delaware. JJ currently works as a Lineman but continues to seek employment in business.

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Youth Success Story – George Washington

CC found the WIOA Youth program through recommendations from his church and the STEM program. CC was initially shy when entering the program. Now he displays greater confidence from his experiences in the program over the past few months. CC is driven to successfully complete his training and then to pursue a career.

CC's journey through the WIOA Youth program began with a trip to Germanna's FredCAT training center to explore his goal of becoming a Heavy Equipment Operator. CC was able to work the controls of the Heavy Equipment simulators used by the students. He also was able to meet and learn from some of the instructors at the center. The very next day, CC joined other WIOA Youth participants for the Career Adventure Program at Randolph Macon Academy. CC completed all 3 phases of the Career Adventure Program.

Soon after returning from Phase 1 of the Career Adventure Program, CC attended his first class at Germanna, Core Craft Skills. This class is taken by all who are on a construction-oriented career path. CC gained a greater understanding of the construction workplace including safety, and the identification and use of various hand tools. CC is now participating in Germanna's Heavy Equipment Operator Level I class.

CC shared his experiences with the WIOA Youth program at Rappahannock Goodwill's Board of Directors "Mission Moment." Afterwards, one of the Board members who works in the construction industry shared his contact information with CC for future employment opportunities.

CC is excited for his future and is eager to find his niche. It may be Heavy Equipment Operator on our roads and new home lots or, perhaps, as his mom and grandma suggest, a career with the Merchant Marines. Whatever CC chooses to do, he will undoubtedly continue to be a great success.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck & Middle Peninsula

The WIOA Youth program at RCC aims to assist youth in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula regions in overcoming barriers to employment by offering training, career counseling and other supportive services. One of the primary goals of the program is connecting youth to careers that align with their interests.

In July 2022 WIOA Youth participants were presented with a unique opportunity through the Bay Consortium's first ever Career Adventure program to stay overnight at the campus of Randolph-Macon Academy and partake in a cyber themed camp. During their weeklong stay, hosted by STEAMBridge, Northern Neck youth participants K, J, and JT, as well as Middle Peninsula participants D, W, and S were immersed in the exciting world of blockchain and crypto technologies. Our participants worked on a range of real-world skills in financial literacy, cybersecurity, and entrepreneurship. Each left the camp having set up a cryptocurrency wallet, and creating both a token and NFT that they were allowed to keep.

While they worked hard during the day learning about budgeting, the stock market, and online trading, they were also presented with bonding opportunities in the evening where they got a chance to get to know their peers. For many of these youth, this was an amazing opportunity to also work on their communication and social skills in a post pandemic world. At the conclusion of the camp, they all remarked that not only did they have fun, but they learned a lot. This left many of them even more confident in their training and career goals as they are now enrolled in training ranging from coding to cybersecurity.

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore

MM is an out-of-school youth participant who just completed a work experience activity. MM graduated from high school this past June and wanted to work to earn experience in the workforce. MM stated that she wanted to enroll in college in the fall 2022 semester to major in early childhood education. A local daycare opened in spring. The program saw an opportunity to partner with Harbor House as a pipeline to work experience and, ultimately, careers in early childhood. After contacting the daycare supervisor about allowing MM to complete learn as she worked. The daycare supervisor agreed to the partnership, and MM began working with the local daycare. The supervisor at the daycare spoke very highly of MM. Once MM earns a college degree, a job will be waiting for her at Harbor House. MM is currently attending Salisbury University in Maryland.