

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington

Caitlin entered the WIOA program with limited income to meet her basic needs. She found herself anxious about the barriers to obtaining her goal of becoming a Welder. Inspired by her father's support, she enrolled in the WIOA program to explore the opportunities the program offered.

WIOA staff supported Caitlin in registering for training to pursue her goal of working in the Welding industry. Caitlin finished her training and obtained her credentials in just five months. Afterwards, WIOA staff supported Caitlin to revise her Resume and provided job listings. During the job search, a welding company representative reached out to Caitlin with an offer. Caitlin was excited and hesitant to apply because of her lack of experience in such a challenging field. The WIOA Case Manager encouraged Caitlin to apply and speak with the employer. Caitlin did so, and the company hired her shortly after submitting the application.

A few months after starting her new job, another company contacted Caitlin with an offer to match her credentials and provide an opportunity for Caitlin to grow with the company. Caitlin reported to the WIOA Case Manager that the program made a significant difference for her by providing funding for training, guided assistance, and job search support. Caitlin stated, "I loved the training and learning my craft." "Now I am my craft!" "I am a Welder!"

Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck

18-year-old Alice came to RCC in the summer of 2022. Since high school, she had been waitressing at various restaurants. She decided she would like to be a dental assistant. She applied for WIOA funding and was determined eligible as an adult. In July, she was enrolled in the program. She completed all job readiness assignments and her interests matched Onet interests for dental assisting. She started her training on September 10, 2022. In 10 weekends, Alice was excited to complete her training. On January 30, 2023, she started a new job as a dental assistant. Alice is doing very well and is wonderful to work with.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula

On February 2, 2023, Bob came to RCC and inquired about CDL training. He was 22 years old and had been an Amazon driver with a great driving record. He wanted to drive the big rigs and see the world. He applied to WIOA and was determined eligible. He was enrolled and started training on February 21st. He was an exceptional student and three weeks later March 14th, Bob passed his test! He continued to work some cash jobs while applying for over-the-road jobs and soon accepted an offer. On May 15th, Bob started driving with Western Express. After thirty days of training, he began driving solo. Bob has been a wonderful student and great to work with. Best of luck to him!

Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

Davion graduated from Old Dominion University with a bachelor's degree in information systems at its spring 2023 commencement. Davion participated in the WIOA program prior to that and though he changed his major several times, he went on to earn an associate's degree in Arts & Sciences for General Studies at Eastern Shore Community College in 2021. After completion Davion contemplated applying for admission at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Salisbury University, Norfolk State University, and Old Dominion University. He was apprehensive at first and needed a great deal of encouragement to take the next step in higher education. He eventually took a leap of faith and applied at Old Dominion University. To his amazement, he was accepted as a transfer student. Davion successfully completed all the curriculum requirements and earned a bachelor's degree in information technology cyber security.

We are proud of Davion and wish him well as he joins the workforce as an IT professional who proved that with program support, encouragement, and a tenacious spirit, dreams can become reality. Davion is a happy law-abiding, self-sufficient African American youth who secured employment in an in-demand occupation with a bright career pathway earning a competitive salary at BAE Systems. Congratulations Davion!

Story #2

Johnathan, a construction carpenter by trade was recently laid off by his employer who was forced to shut the company down due to an inability to complete projects related to staffing issues. Not knowing what to do or where to go from there, Jonathan went to the local Virginia Career Works center to apply for unemployment benefits. After meeting with staff, Jonathan was referred to the WIOA representative. Jonathan made it known that he was seeking immediate employment to meet the financial needs of his family. After discussing immediate career opportunities, Johnathan decided that he was tired of the construction carpentry business. WIOA staff shared program information and opportunities available for WIOA participants to train for a new career. Having viewed several career paths, Johnathan decided to pursue commercial driver license training. Johnathan met the requirements for eligibility. He enrolled in the training and completed the written portion of the CDL training examination. Now he must pass the pre-trip and the road portion of the test. WIOA staff will be notified as soon as Johnathan completes the remainder of the exam and earns his commercial driver's license. Several companies have already expressed interest in hiring Johnathan based on his stellar work history and dependability. The sky is the limit for Johnathan once he earns his CDL.

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Youth Success Story – George Washington

Brandon is a recent high school graduate with disabilities and minimal work experience. Brandon expressed a strong desire to obtain credentials and a career in the healthcare industry. Brandon has a family member who serves as his mentor who also works in the healthcare industry.

The Case Manager provided support throughout Brandon's training. She served as a "patient" for Brandon to demonstrate the proper techniques for blood draw. Brandon was very professional, introducing himself, asking for identifying information from the "patient", preparing the supplies, and finding the vein. The Case Manager also provided support to Brandon while he was studying for his exam.

The training provider reported that Brandon took advantage of extra study time after class with a fellow student. In two short months, Brandon completed the Leadership, Financial Literacy, and Phlebotomy and IV Therapy training, and then passed his exam.

Brandon is now practicing these skills in an externship at a local primary care facility. Brandon is scheduled to begin the Certified Medical Assistant training on 8/1/23 prior to pursuing employment in healthcare. Brandon is well on his way to achieving his goal of a successful career in the healthcare industry.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck

Program participants Ashton, Emily and Erika took part in the Summer Career Adventure Program on 3D printing held at Rappahannock Community College. During the weeklong activity the participants learned valuable skills in not only the technology of 3D printers and printing, by building their own 3D printers, but they also learned about entrepreneurship. Ashton is hopeful to continue her work by applying the skills she learned during the camp to help her sell her artwork and 3D creations. Each participant took home the printers they built, along with enough materials to continue practicing what they learned in the hands-on classes.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Middle Peninsula

Program participant Deja, has been chipping away at a certification in CompTIA A+ for the past several months, and will be sitting for her certification test by the end of August. Deja was an inaugural participant in the first Summer Career Adventure Program that focused on Cybersecurity, and she has been working hard to gain industry recognized credentials and experiences in order to begin a career in the field.

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Ja'la is an out of school youth who recently completed training and earned her Certified Nursing Assistant certification. Ja'la had a hard upbringing. She lived in a home with a family who had other children. Knowing that she did not want to stay in her situation, Ja'la, with the assistance of her case worker enrolled in the certified nursing assistant program at Eastern Shore Community College. Ja'la excelled and made it through the course with exceptional grades. Ja'la participated in graduation and went on to pass the state board licensure examination. She is now working full-time as a fully credentialed Certified Nursing Assistant. Her dream came true and she is looking ahead to achieve more goals. Her dreams are big and we are very proud to have been a part of this stage of professional career development.