

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington

BB was let go from his job as an electrician helper during the pandemic. He did not want to re-enter this field because his pay and work hours were not stable during the pandemic. BB had family members working in the trucking industry, and he wanted to pursue working in this field due to industry demands and financial opportunities.

BB met with WIOA staff to discuss his service options. He was found eligible for services as a Dislocated Worker as well as for funding through the COVID-19 National Dislocated Worker Grant. Throughout the eligibility process, BB was openly concerned about his past felony record and how this barrier made it difficult for him to gain employment.

WIOA staff supported BB in obtaining a Federal Bonding letter and registering for CDL training to pursue his goal of working in the trucking industry. BB began his training, and despite the delays and smaller class sizes the training provider had in place due to the pandemic, he finished his training and obtained his CDL in just over the usual six weeks. Afterwards, WIOA staff supported BB to revise his resume and provided him with job listings.

During the job search, an industry hiring event took place at the Virginia Career Works – Fredericksburg Center. A trucking company was in attendance and the WIOA staff spoke with them about their hiring practices around hiring re-entry citizens. Initially, the employer was hesitant, and staff spoke with them at length about the benefits of hiring re-entry citizens. Staff encouraged BB to come to the hiring event and speak with the employer. He did so, and the company hired him on spot. BB stated he had been open about his past with them and they were willing to give him the opportunity despite his background.

WIOA staff spoke with the employer at a later hiring event and they stated they were happy to have given BB the opportunity, because of his work ethic, personality, and his overall drive to learn every task he could. Because of BB's hard work and WIOA staff advocacy, not only was this a success for this client, but potentially for others in the future with similar barriers.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck

On July 28, 2021, R. inquired about the CDL program at RCC. He studied for his learner's permit and passed his exam. He applied to WIOA for financial assistance and was determined eligible as an adult. The original class was scheduled to begin on 9/20/21 but, due to scheduling and COVID conflicts, had to be moved back twice. Finally, the training began on 10/11/21, and R. was ready. He completed the training on 11/15/21 and passed his exam on 11/17/21. COVID has changed the world in so many ways, and training schedules and conflicts have become common. However, R. was always patient and understanding throughout the entire process. He will soon begin a new driving job. Right now, he has the option of choosing which company he wishes to go with. He has been a pleasure to work with, and we wish him much success.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula

S is a single mother of three. She came to the WIOA program seeking occupational training in Medication Aide. S was unemployed and had no income outside of child support and receiving SNAP benefits. S successfully achieved her Medication Aide licensure as well as Nurse Aide licensure. She put forth 100% effort towards her studies, class attendance, and certifications. Upon completion of the WIOA program, S decided to continue her studies in Associates Degree in Nursing program at RCC. She has further planned to pursue the RN program. S credits WIOA for helping with goal setting and funding throughout her steps towards the medical field. S has achieved excellent grades in all of her coursework.

Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

EE is an adult participant who successfully completed the certified nursing program and is now pursuing a license practical nursing license. EE started her training in a workforce program that helps students who are in need of financial assistance. EE was then referred to the WIOA program for assistance to help with funding. EE explained that the chicken factory processing plant was not a place where she wanted to be long-term and she desired a change of professions. EE completed the certified nursing assistance program and passed the state board examination on her first try. EE is currently enrolled in the licensed practical nursing program and is scheduled to complete her training in the summer semester of 2022. EE would like to work as a licensed practical nurse for a while before enrolling in the registered nurse program at Eastern Shore Community College.

Story #2

Case Manager recently touched base with CC who completed the commercial driver's license training. CC completed the commercial license training at CDS Tractor Trailer Training site in Woodford due to full classes at the Eastern Shore Community College satellite site. At the Woodford site, CC completed the training in record time and came away with a Class A commercial driver's license. CC then got a truck driving position at Perdue Farms, Inc. in Accomack. CC informed Case Manager that he is still working as a truck driver for Perdue and is still believes that it was the perfect training and career choice for him. CC thanked Case Manager for the helping enroll in the commercial driver's license training program so that he could find employment after being laid off so abruptly.

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Youth Success Story – George Washington

FF entered the WIOA Youth program to gain work experience and further develop her leadership and soft skills. She hoped to either work in the Human Resources or Dental field in an office related position. FF was provided leadership and soft skills training and coaching by WIOA Youth staff to support her goal of working in an office environment.

FF participated in a work experience in a dental office for career exploration and skill development. FF discovered she did not enjoy working in a Dental office environment and she wanted to explore working in other office settings. The WIOA Youth staff then coordinated a work experience at a local non-profit. FF worked through both of her scheduled office-based work experiences and gained valuable skills.

Once FF completed her work experiences, she worked with WIOA Youth staff to revise her resume and conduct job search. FF obtained an office position with a real-estate management company and worked there for nearly a year.

WIOA Youth staff learned in FF's final quarter of Follow-up that FF enlisted in the military. After FF's initial boot camp and enlistment activities, she will be working as a Human Resources Generalist in the Army while actively serving her country.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck

O came to the WIOA as a recent High School graduate who was struggling to determine his next step. He expressed an interest in participating in training and after some career exploration, he decided that he would like to take welding courses. After being determined eligible for the WIOA Youth program, O participated in some leadership activities, was hired by a local manufacturing company, and was enrolled in welding courses. He was successful in his first two welding courses, earning certifications in SMAW and GMAW. O was offered a job with a Utility Structures company making \$15.00 per hour. He is enjoying his new job and his supervisor reports that due to his work ethic he has the potential to move up quickly in the company.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Middle Peninsula

16-year-old D's father passed away suddenly while he was in high school. After transferring to a new school, he was really struggling. He did however earn his GED through the high school program and was referred to WIOA by his school counselor. The case manager met with the client and his mom who is the custodian at the school he last attended. She has an Associate Degree in Accounting from a Virginia Community College, but has had a hard time finding a job in her field. The case manager worked with the family to get the son enrolled in welding and assist mom in updating her resume and submitting applications online. Mom attended the virtual Empower Career CPR bootcamp and her son who turned 17 in October earned his first welding credential (SMAW-Shielded Metal Arc Welding) in December 2021. He begins his next class this month and is working part-time at a local fast food service restaurant. The family is in process of moving into better housing and are thriving.

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore

DD is an out of school youth who recently completed the CNA program. DD enrolled in the certified nursing assistant program after working as a personal care aide. DD wanted to start as a certified nursing assistant and work her way up the ladder all the way to the registered nurse program. While in the certified nursing assistant program, DD kept up good grades and had one of the best reviews in clinical exercises. After the class room training, DD went on to take the

certified nursing assistant state board examination and passed. At DD's current employer, DD was promoted to certified nursing assistant and received a pay increase. DD considering enrolling in the licensed practical nursing program.