



Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington

Joshua came to the American Job Center/Virginia Career Works Fredericksburg Center to inquire about the WIOA Training Program. Upon entering the program, Joshua was unemployed, and he was facing some challenges to gaining employment due to limited skills and his legal background. Joshua requested the assistance of the WIOA Training Program to obtain the CDL Class-A license to secure a job in the transportation industry. Joshua completed his training at 2020 CDL Driving School. He obtained his CDL Class-A license on July 17, 2024. After obtaining the CDL Class A license, Joshua secured employment at Vulcan Material 25 as a Truck Driver working 40 hours per week earning \$25 an hour.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck

In November 2023, Kristy was enrolled in WIOA as an Adult. She had re-located to Virginia from North Carolina and was working as a cook but needed a trade that would enable her to earn more income. She decided that CDL would be a good choice for her and quickly passed her CDL learner's tests and physical. She began training in a few weeks and, in January, Kristy passed her training and earned her CDL license. She was ready to start driving and started applying for driving jobs. She was hired by a company to drive over the road. In May, Kristy attended orientation in Dallas and underwent a physical, only to find that her A1C was 11.6. She would have to wait until she lowered her sugar before she could start driving. She returned home, saw her physician and started a plan to reduce her sugar. In the meantime, Kristy continued to drive locally for Amazon, making daily deliveries to customers. She stayed in touch and, in July, she had achieved her A1C goal of 7.4. She promised to keep in touch with her journey back to driving. In October, Kristy started driving for Amazon but, this time, she was driving a tractor and trailer. With much hard work and determination, Kristy persevered! Way to go, Kristy!

Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula

In June 2022, Wayne came to RCC and expressed interest in some type of skills training, although he had no idea what he actually wanted to do. He had never worked but was about to begin his first job as a school custodian. He was enrolled in WIOA after deciding to pursue welding training. He started his first welding class (SMAW) in August and continued with 4 more classes. He attempted Pipe welding but did not earn a credential, and he decided not to re-try. He did earn 4 credentials. Meanwhile, Wayne continued to work as a custodian. He was closed out of WIOA but kept in regular contact. In September 2024, Wayne met his goal. He accepted a job offer at Newport News Shipbuilding. His wages increased from \$13.48 an hour to \$22.76 an hour. In two years, Wayne started his first job, earned 4 welding credentials and gained employment with one of the most sought-after employers in Virginia. I have no doubt that Wayne will be a huge success. Congratulations!

Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

Lynsay's story is a testament to determination, skill, and the power of opportunity. She was referred to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program from Adult Education. Lynsay was an English as a Second Language student. Lynsay already had a strong academic foundation. She held a bachelor's degree in computer science from Haiti and was fluent in Haitian Creole and French. Seeking to

utilize her skills and gain work experience in the U.S., Lynsay joined the WIOA program. She chose to complete a work experience placement at the Virginia Career Works Center and started on September 3, 2024. Over the next few months, Lynsay impressed her supervisor with her exceptional performance, adaptability, and professionalism by excelling in reading and writing in multiple languages. On December 31, 2024, Lynsay successfully completed her work experience, but her journey didn't stop there. Recognizing her talent, Bay Consortium offered Lynsay a permanent position as a Center Navigator where she can utilize her Interpreter/ Translator skills at the Virginia Career Works Center. She gladly accepted the offer and began her new role at the Virginia Career Works Center on January 2, 2025. Lynsay's story is a shining example of how dedication and the right support can lead to meaningful employment and career growth. Her success highlights the importance of programs like WIOA in bridging the gap between talent and opportunity.

Story #2

Danielle was a Bayshore Concrete employee for many years until she received the dreaded yellow lay-off slip some of her co-workers received weeks prior. As the single mother of two children, she did not know how she would make it on weekly unemployment insurance payments alone. Especially when she realized it was only a fraction of her earnings. After attending a Rapid Response meeting Danielle made an appointment with the WIOA representative from Eastern Shore Community College. She listened to all the possibilities available for changing careers. Danielle liked the sound of changing careers because working in a male dominated profession was hard all by itself. When she considered the extremely early mornings, late evenings, weekends, and brutal summer and winter weather she knew she needed a change. Danielle enrolled in the medical assisting program and attended her classes without having to use her unemployment payments to attend. The program provided supportive services in the form of gas vouchers to help her get to classes three days per week. Danielle's parents provided childcare feeding and bathing sons preparing them for bed, so all Danielle had to do after class was pick them up and take them home ready for bed. Danielle was thankful for all the support she received. Today Danielle is a full-time medical assistant at Riverside Eastern Shore Physicians and Surgeons. A WIOA staff member recently had the pleasure of being waited on by Danielle, the consummate medical professional. Danielle loves her job!

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Youth Success Story – George Washington

CJ was referred to the WIOA Youth Program from Stafford County Public Schools. The WIOA Case Manager worked with CJ, his parents, and the Transitional Specialist to support CJ's transition from school to work. CJ did not have any prior paid work experience and wanted to participate in a WEX at a local Goodwill store. At the completion of the WEX, CJ wanted to pursue a job at the Goodwill store. The Supervisor agreed that CJ would be a good fit for employment. CJ worked with the WIOA Case Manager to apply for the Back End Retail Associate position. CJ was hired for the part time Back End Retail Associate position on 8/26/24, earning \$14 an hour. The WIOA Case Manager continues to maintain monthly contact with CJ and his Supervisor offering support if needed.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck

18-year-old Dana graduated from high school in May 2024 and was enrolled in WIOA in June. Dana's dad passed away and left her mom with 6 children, ages 2 to 18. She works part time, attends RCC, and her goal is to work in the medical field. She started her career path with entry-level emergency medical technician training. Those classes were scheduled from June 11th to August 15th. She enjoyed her training and did very well. When she took her National Registry exam, she missed passing by 1 point. However, when she re-took the exam, she was successful. Dana continues with her academic classes at RCC. She is strong and motivated. I am anxious to see where her journey will take her. Best of luck!

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Middle Peninsula

Elaine was enrolled in WIOA in July 2024 and was enrolled as an in-school youth participant. This student was always a top performer in high school until COVID remote learning. Those challenges, coupled with some other personal barriers, caused a significant decline during her senior year. She managed to graduate high school and preserve her admittance to James Madison University. Once there however, the personal issues continued to have an impact and she had to return home on academic probation. The opportunity to participate with WIOA in a work experience in her chosen career path of Information Technology was transformational. She was enrolled in a work experience with RCC's IT Department. She thrived, performed exceptionally well, and her motivation and confidence were restored. She returned to college this semester to continue study in Computer Science and was able to move off of academic probation. Best of luck to Elaine!

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Rosemylove St Louis, originally from Haiti was referred to WIOA from Adult Education. Rosemylove aspires to become a pediatric nurse, however her English was preventing her from moving forward. Rosemylove was enrolled in English as a Second Language and was eager to move on to GED class, but her instructor did not feel she was ready. Rosemylove applied for WIOA services and expressed how badly she needed a job to support her family. So, WIOA staff shared information about the work experience activity where she would have an opportunity to work with children. WIOA contracted with the Boys and Girls Club of the Eastern Shore to provide Rosemylove with the opportunity to work with children. Rosemylove completed all the contracted hours and successfully completed her work experience activity with joy. While completing the work experience, she enrolled in an accredited online GED program. To everyone's surprise Rosemylove earned her GED within a few short months and is looking forward to enrolling in nursing classes at Eastern Shore Community College soon. We are proud of Rosemylove!