



Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Success Story – George Washington

Mary was referred to the American Job Center/Virginia Career Works Fredericksburg Center by a local training provider. Mary was unemployed and wanted to follow her dream of working in the healthcare industry. Mary was concerned that her legal background would interfere with achieving her goal of becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). The WIOA case manager worked with the training provider to confirm that Mary's background was not an obstacle to becoming a CNA. Mary was able to enroll in the Certified Nursing Aide class at Career Nursing Academy. Mary successfully completed the CNA program, obtained her credential, and obtained employment at Morningside House of Fredericksburg as a full-time CNA earning \$18.00 per hour.

Rappahannock Community College Success Story - Northern Neck

Dalton came to RCC seeking training and job placement assistance. He had been a package delivery driver for many years until he was injured on the job in 2021. He had received no income for 3 years and was now ready to get a job. He wanted to enroll in CDL training. He passed his CDL learner's and met all eligibility requirements for WIOA. He was enrolled and started training. He completed his training and earned his CDL but soon learned that CDL jobs are not so plentiful these days. Many driving jobs now require 1 to 3 years of driving experience. He was able to secure a job with a local seafood business. His goal is to continue driving until he can afford to buy his own truck. Success comes with hard work and determination. It also comes with the understanding that sometimes we must begin with less and work our way to larger goals. Congratulations, Dalton, for a job well done and best of luck to you!

Rappahannock Community College Success Story – Middle Peninsula

Cathy is a single mom to 3 children. She decided she needed to do something to boost her income, even though she received child support, her \$21-dollar-an-hour job was not enough to support her family. She had been working as a recruiter for a home health agency. She contacted Rappahannock Community College to inquire about SHRM (Society for Human Resource Management) training. She was deemed eligible for WIOA and, after completing all requirements, was enrolled in the program. She was enrolled in training with VCU Center for Corporate Education, and her classes started in February. The 14-week program was demanding, especially with juggling a full-time job and activities for her children. But, she succeeded, and the hard work paid off. She started a new job as a recruiter with a precast concrete product company. She now earns \$27.50 an hour and really enjoys her job. Congratulations and Best of Luck to Cathy!

Eastern Shore Community College Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Story #1

Brettani, a single mother of two sons one with special needs, came to the WIOA program seeking funding for the cosmetology program. Brettani has always loved playing beauty shop and had a natural curiosity to make all types of hair styles. Her family humored her and let her experiment on their hair. Some were brave enough to allow her to apply chemicals that straighten and color hair. When Brettani heard that there was a hair braiding and weaving program held at ESCC she signed up and earned the certification. After that she earned a loctician certification. A loctician specializes in the holistic care and maintenance

of locs (commonly known as dreadlocks). The training provider at Eastern Shore Academy of Cosmetology (ESAC) announced a scholarship essay competition. Brettani entered the contest and won! It was a partial scholarship, so Brettani still needed help to fund the remaining cost before she was allowed to enroll. Brettani learned about WIOA, met all the qualifications for eligibility and was enrolled. Brettani has since earned her cosmetology license. Brettani is currently enrolled in business management training at ESCC and completed an internship as part of her training at Barbershop Swag and Beauty Salon in Exmore. Brettani will graduate this quarter and is currently looking for a space to open her own business. We are excited about Brettani's accomplishments and look forward to the grand opening of her business.

Story #2

Jamard, a former dislocated worker, trained as an HVAC technician at ESCC. Jamard attended training as specified in his WIOA contract and passed his certification examinations. Today Jamard is employed full-time at Thornton Services, Inc. in Belle Haven. Jamard started as an "HVAC Technician Helper" and performed his assigned tasks and duties with professionalism and maturity. After his probationary period Jamard was given the title HVAC Technician and assigned a company vehicle and job orders to fulfill unaccompanied. Since then, Jamard has earned other HVAC certifications and promotions and trains new staff. Jamard is enjoying the self-sufficiency he lost after being laid off. Jamard hopes to someday open his own HVAC business. He stated, "I'm thankful for the WIOA program and the staff who encouraged me to gain new skills and now I can provide for my family again." We celebrate Jamard's accomplishments.

Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Youth Success Story – George Washington

Alexis came to the American Job Center/Virginia Career Works Fredericksburg Center, with a goal to start a career in healthcare. Alexis entered the WIOA Youth program unemployed with a Certified Nursing Assistant license. Alexis wanted to earn the Certified Medication Aide credential to make her more marketable in her job search. Alex completed the Medication Aide training while facing challenges of being unemployed and a single parent. Alexis's met her goal of completing training and securing full time employment as a Certified Nursing Assistant with Mary Washington Healthcare, earning \$17.36 per hour, with benefits.

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Northern Neck

18-Year-old Mackenzie came to Rappahannock Community College in August 2024 with a desire to enroll in Dental Assisting training. She was determined eligible for the WIOA youth program and completed all documents and requirements. In September 2024, Mackenzie started her training with Today's Dentist. She attended and successfully completed the 10-week training program. After completion of the program, she was enrolled for 6 weeks in a WIOA work experience with a local dentist. Although, Mackenzie realized she needs to build her skills and her self-confidence, she has decided to enroll in dental hygiene training in the fall. With the extensive dental training, she will broaden her career options. Best of luck to Mackenzie!

Rappahannock Community College Youth Success Story – Middle Peninsula

Brennan and his dad came to RCC in July 2024 to discuss training options for Brennan. He was 20 years old and interested in welding. He was determined eligible for youth WIOA funding. After completion of all program requirements, Brennan was enrolled in WIOA and started his first welding class in September 2024. Brennan was enjoying his classes and was doing very well. However, toward the end of October, he was involved in a serious accident that crushed his knee. He needed surgery and therapy and would need to be dropped from the class. He would come back when he was released from the doctor's care. In

January, he called and said he was ready. Because Brennan had missed 3 classes and had not completed a test plate, he would be starting all over, which he did. He has now successfully completed SMAW welding and has just started GMAW welding. With much determination and hard work, Brennan is doing great and, without a doubt, will continue to be successful in the welding program. Great job, Brennan!

Eastern Shore Community College Youth Success Stories – Eastern Shore

Jyna, a summer youth participant in the WIOA program took the work experience opportunity she gained and became licensed nail technician. Since participating in the summer youth program, Jyna has leased space in an established shop where her clients keep coming back and telling their friends about her nail art and expert care. Jyna's clientele books her services weeks in advance because she is always busy and does not take walk-ins. Jyna earns enough money to care for herself and her four-year-old son without government assistance. Jyna is proud of herself for being independent. Jyna's goal is not only to do nails and feet for the rest of her life, but other things as well. Jyna is enrolled full-time in the criminal justice program at WOR-WIC Community College in Salisbury, Maryland. After her son is a little older, Jyna would like to work with young people who have entered the juvenile justice system because she believes she can make a difference. When asked if she will quit doing nails altogether, Jyna responded, "I never will because it's money in my hand every day, and all I have to do is manage it to keep my son and me taken care of, besides, I just love doing nails." We applaud Jyna's hard work and look forward to hearing from her when she earns her criminal justice degree.