

# ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Innocent Sengabira Nkurunziza | Idaho



Adult education connected Innocent with resources to utilize his past professional experience back in his country. In March of 2021, Innocent came to the United States from Rwanda as a Congolese refugee. He had been working professionally as a nurse in Rwanda and had received his Bachelor's degree in nursing.

Upon arriving in the United States, Innocent realized that his prior degree would not be accepted in U.S. hospitals. He would need to attend a nursing program and pass a nursing board exam here in order to practice as a registered nurse (RN). He became determined to learn more English to pursue his dreams of practicing medicine as an RN here in the states, and almost as soon as he arrived, Innocent

enrolled in an adult education ESL program at the College of Western Idaho, where he participated in an integrated ESL and certified nursing assistant (CNA) course.

Before even completing the course, Innocent had a job offer at a local hospital, Saint Alphonsus. Working as a CNA at the hospital has opened the door to pursuing a professional nursing license. The hospital will help with his tuition, provide networking opportunities, and make visible a multitude of career pathway opportunities in the U.S. healthcare system.

Innocent looks forward to reaching his next goal of becoming a registered nurse. Integrated education and the training Innocent received in adult education, was only the first step in what is sure to be a brilliant career. ■

*Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive*