

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Jose Zambrano | Texas



Adult education fueled ambition in Jose. A Honduran native, and fluent Spanish speaker, Jose had quit his high school education in Honduras in 12th grade, because he lacked the drive to continue.

When he came to the United States 11 years ago, he became very self conscious of his slow pronunciation in English and his mispronounced words. He also felt ashamed of his slow comprehension of English and Spanish reading passages. Jose states, however, “My teacher Mr. Salinas was very patient.” This made a huge impact on Jose, and he began to put the extra work in to pass his Spanish GED®.

After attending the Houston Community College (HCC) Adult Education orientation meeting, the 32-year-old realized he needed a goal to fuel his ambition. He set his sights on becoming a Project Management Professional which requires a two-year associate's degree. He decided it was time to go back to school. For Jose, it was a struggle to work full time doing construction to support his family while attending HCC Spanish GED® classes. He states, “You're tired, [and] you have to go the extra mile.”

Today, Jose has passed his Spanish GED®. He has started a job working for a large construction company and has attained a promotion. He is excited to learn new skills that will help him reach his future career goals and plans to begin classes at Houston Community College this fall. He thanks his wife, and his adult education teacher, Mr. Salinas, for all of their support, and for helping him realize all of his potential. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive