

# ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Karina Ravkina-Matousov | California



A refugee from Russia, Karina began working at a very young age. She began by working at swap meets, and eventually took a position working in her family's clothing business.

While devoted to supporting her family business, Karina fell behind in school. On the first day of 11th grade, Karina learned that she was behind in credits, and would have to repeat the year. She was too far behind and had to focus on working, so Karina made the difficult decision to drop out of high school.

Karina knew the importance of education and began to seek out ways to earn a High School diploma. She partnered with an adult education program and enrolled in the Dropout Recovery Program that offered students the opportunity to complete school work independently and continue to hold a job. Karina excelled in this program and graduated only a month after her peers.

Today, Karina is an Assistant Principal of Operations for Los Angeles Unified School District's Division of Adult and Career Education. She has earned multiple credentials including a Master's in Education with a concentration in School Counseling as well as a Master's in English. She continues to give back to the same education programs that made it possible for her to achieve her goals. ■

*Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive*