

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Marcos Bonilla-Cruz | Rhode Island



Adult education provided Marcos with the English skills he needed to pursue his goals. Marcos Bonilla was born in the Dominican Republic in 1996. He moved to the United States in 2014 to pursue English Language studies, but quickly realized he would need much more language support. He states, “I did not know how to speak or write English. My desire was to enter higher education as soon as I graduated high school, yet I had a long road to walk before I did that. I entered Adult Education because of my language barrier.”

Currently, Marcos works at the Genesis Center School as an Enrollment Specialist. He graduated with High Honors from the Community College of Rhode Island with an Arts Degree and is continuing his education at the University of Rhode Island towards a Bachelor's Degree with a major in English. Marcos has also served as a Rhode Island Army National Guard Religious Affairs Specialist since 2018.

Marcos has high expectations for his future. After he finishes his Bachelor's degree, he wants to obtain a Master's Degree in Education so that he can become an Adult Education professor and give back to those around him. He also wishes to become a National Guard Chaplain to serve soldiers, veterans, and their families under mentally and spiritually stressful situations. He states, “I want to ensure that I am well prepared to serve them with the highest quality that a Religious Affairs Specialist can provide.” ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive