

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Yolanda Molina Chica | Wisconsin



Adult literacy services equipped Yolanda with the English skills she needed to pursue her dreams. Born in Colombia, Yolanda dreamed of becoming a United States citizen, but knew that the road would be long and difficult. She states, “I recently had an interview for U.S. citizenship but did not pass. The person who interviewed me said I needed to improve my English skills.”

Yolanda refused to give up. Her son encouraged her to enroll in an adult literacy program run by the public library, which worked specifically with refugees like her. It was here she became connected to a man named Eric Johnson at the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL). He helped her focus on vocabulary and practice interview questions. He also worked on pronunciation with her so that the interviewer would understand her responses better. She states, “Eric helped me a lot, along with my English/Spanish tutor, to understand English concepts. I focused on pronouncing words better, working hard and dedicating myself to my classes.”

Today, all of her hard work has paid off. She recently retook the citizenship interview and passed! She notes, “I wanted to improve my English speaking and vocabulary skills, pass my interview and become a United States citizen. After I didn't pass the interview the first time, I was determined to do better.” Her determination granted her access to pursue her dreams in the United States as a citizen. She can now look to the future and begin dreaming of how adult education can connect her to the career of her dreams. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive