

# ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

---

## Bing Zhou | Maine



Adult education helped Bing form a long-term friendship that bloomed into a beautiful business. In 2015, Bing enrolled in York Adult Education (YAE) to improve her English. Here she met a woman, who would become her best friend. Together, they decided to pursue the healthcare field as certified nursing assistants, but fate intervened and they began dreaming of owning their own business together.

For the next four years adult education classes brought Bing into a community of learners from similar backgrounds and situations, and she began to feel more comfortable in their English skills and less isolated. She felt empowered to speak with her children's teachers and doctors and more in control of her circumstances in a new country.

In fall of 2019 Bing and her friend were ready to become business partners and open a noodle bowl restaurant. Even though COVID-19 hit restaurants hard, they were able to keep their business going throughout the pandemic with a successful pivot to a take-out-only model. During this time, Bing continued adult education, and her friend passed her HiSET® exam in June 2021.

Today, the restaurant is thriving and has even been featured in DownEast, a local Maine publication. Bing's friend has decided to take her education further, and is taking business classes at the local community college with support from her adult education program to assist in the restaurant business. Their persistence and hard work has truly afforded them the American dream. ■

*Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive*