



ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Esmerelda Flores | Iowa

Adult education has equipped Esmerelda with the English language skills she needed to pursue an education career in the United States. After teaching preschool in Mexico for 13 years, Esmerelda was forced to leave her home, her family, and her friends to start a new life in the United States. She writes, “It has not been easy, facing a new language, another culture, etc. However, I know that the principle of everything we do in life requires courage and sacrifice.”

Esmerelda knew that beginning a career in education with limited English skills would not be possible, so she enrolled in Muscatine Community College (MCC) to take English Language Acquisition (ELA) classes. In the ten months she attended, Esmerelda made significant progress in her ability to read, write, listen and speak in English. Her professors were very impressed with her marked improvement in such a short period of time. She is steps closer to embarking on the career of her dreams in education.

Recently Esmerelda has had a shift in her career goals. Her job as a school supervision assistant four years ago showed her that she might enjoy the field of education in an administrative capacity rather than as a teacher. She states, “I really like working in front of a computer, organizing, preparing [material for meetings] and being part of a team.” With the skills that adult education classes have given Esmerelda, she will be able to pursue any degree she sets her mind to. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive