



ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Jagroop Kaur | California

Adult education gave Jagroop the means to flourish in the United States. A teacher and mother from India, Jagroop and her family came to Sacramento full of excitement at the prospect of finding a fulfilling career in the United States. The reality, however, was a different story. She struggled to understand the American accent, and finding a rewarding job proved more difficult than she anticipated. While her friends insisted she should be content with any entry-level job she could find, Jagroop knew she wanted something more.

One evening, some of Jagroop's neighbors showed her Elk Grove Adult and Community Education (EGACE) where they were taking adult classes. She was astonished to find that the classes were free; such classes were never free in India. Jagroop took the placement exam and quickly registered for Advanced ESL classes and computer literacy classes. She loved her time at EGACE and decided to pursue a career there. After earning the necessary qualifications, she began working as an office technician at EGACE, rising from a part-time position to full-time staff member in a matter of months. Working and learning simultaneously, Jagroop earned her Adult Education Credential and began to teach other adult learners as a substitute. In 2009, she became a US citizen. In 2016, she became a full-time adult education ESL teacher at EGACE.

In 2019, Jagroop returned back to India to care for her ailing in-laws. Even though she is not employed at the moment, she dreams of returning to the United States to pick up where she left off and inspiring other English language learners, like herself, to follow their goals and ambitions. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive