

# ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY



Quang "Howie" Cao | Kansas



Adult education provided English skills to Quang "Howie" Cao, but the educational vision it provided led him to so much more. Howie came to the United States five years ago from Vietnam. He entered adult education English as a second language (ESL) classes at the Wichita Indochinese Center (WIC) to improve his English skills. He graduated high school while in Vietnam and intended to go to college, but that dream was put on hold when his family immigrated to the United States.

While an ESL student, he signed up for WIC's Intro to Career Pathways STEM class. This experience piqued his interest in engineering. After one and a half years attending ESL classes, he entered the Transitions Class. This class is aimed at transitioning ESL students from English language classes to adult basic education classes for a GED® credential and into college preparation. He then enrolled in a college preparatory program that pairs students with a coach who monitors homework, class attendance, and helps with questions the students may have. Howie completed the 2-year preparatory program in Spring of 2022, successfully completed his GED® credential, maintained all A's and B's in his classes, passed the OSHA 10 certification, and earned his Engineering Technology Certificate.

Today, he is continuing his college education by pursuing his associate degree in engineering technology which he plans to finish in Spring 2023. After that, he hopes to transfer to Wichita State University in Fall 2023 to work towards a bachelor's degree in engineering. ■

*Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive*