

ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Edel Valle | Nebraska



Edel found adult education when he needed it most. Edel wanted to escape the stifling communist government in Cuba that was limiting his progress. Leaving the only life he knew, he made the difficult journey from Cuba to the United States by traveling through several countries in Central America. When he came to America, however, a larger barrier was waiting for him.

Edel's English skills were basically non-existent. He knew he needed a program that would help him learn English if he was going to succeed in the United States.

Fortunately, Northeast Community College (NECC) offered a basic English program for beginners like him. He quickly enrolled, thrilled at the prospect of becoming proficient and being able to participate more fully in this new country that had welcomed him with open arms. Edel's teachers noticed his determination, perseverance, and worth ethic, and they were impressed with the marked improvement he made in just one year's time.

Today, Edel has moved up a level in English and looks forward to where the future will take him. He states, "This program [has been] essential for people like me. Thanks to this program, I believe I can reach [and even] exceed my goals and aspirations." Edel is excited to start a family and hopes to own his own business someday. He knows that with persistence—and his newfound English skills—he will be able to realize any goals he sets his mind to in this land of opportunity. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive