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ADULT EDUCATION
An Investment in America's Future



ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Maria Elena Galban Champa | Louisiana

Maria, originally from Mexico, came here with her husband and two school-aged children years ago. Maria's husband suddenly left them, leaving Maria in a new country with no English skills and two children who needed her help with school work. Maria felt overwhelmed at first, and computers scared her. She knew she needed to find a community that would help her get accustomed to her new situation and equip her with the skills she needed to thrive in America.

She had noticed a community college, Bossier Parish Community College (BPCC), nearby that offered ESL classes, and after some time, drew up the courage to go. As soon as she entered the room, she knew she had made the right choice. The teacher welcomed her in, and Maria felt right at home. She states, "I made friends and became a part of the community. I was no longer alone. I was determined to lift myself out of the 27% of the population with low literacy skills and raise myself above the 42% of the population with low numeracy skills. I discovered not only English class, but also digital literacy classes too! Computers no longer scare me; thanks to the training I have received at BPCC." Maria was soon able to help her children with their homework, and felt empowered to advocate for her children at school now that she could access the online school parent portal where her children's grades and reports were posted.

Today, Maria has attained her high school equivalency diploma and has finished six different certificates in digital literacy and hopes to complete more! She states, "I am able to use a computer to make slide presentations, study, do research, pay bills, do online banking and more! I also understand how to avoid scams!" Her goals include continuing to make a better life for her children. Her oldest is now in college, and her youngest is in high school. She knows that she can model good study practices and push her kids to do well in school because she has gone out and done so for herself. ■