



ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Raymond Silva | Washington



Adult education gave Raymond hope to find a career that engaged and interested him. As a student in high school, Raymond struggled. Most of his classes simply did not interest him, with the exception of the vocational classes his school offered. During his junior year, Raymond decided to drop out and work full-time as an apprentice aircraft mechanic.

Raymond quickly realized this line of work did not interest him either. He states, “I wanted something different. Not having graduated from high school limited me in finding work.” This limitation drove Raymond to find a solution.

It wasn't long before Raymond found Skagit Valley College (SVC) and enrolled in GED® test prep classes. Workforce and Opportunity grants helped fund his education, and with this aid in tuition, he was able to take advantage of SVC's hands-on, two-year welding program. With tuition assistance and help from the I-BEST program, Raymond reached his goal. Two and a half years later, Raymond was able to walk the stage at his graduation ceremony. In fact, he graduated with high honors and was awarded the departmental award from his welding department.

Today, Raymond has his high school equivalency degree, and he works as a structural welder for Matrix Services at BP Cherry Point Refinery. Raymond's hard work alongside tuition assistance and the I-BEST program helped him to find an engaging career that utilizes his greatest talents. ■

Inspiring educators so adults succeed and communities thrive