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ADULT EDUCATION
An Investment in America's Future



ADULT LEARNER SUCCESS STORY

Yaina Mitchell | Delaware

Adult education helped Yaina find a sense of belonging in the United States. The choice to leave her home in the Dominican Republic was not an easy one. Yaina struggled with the choice to stay or to resettle in America for years, when finally she realized she needed more for her children. She made the move and left the familiar to make a new home in a new country.

When arrived in the United States in 2009, Yaina worked hard to support her children and give them all of the opportunities she had dreamed of. While her life in America was financially prosperous, she never felt a real sense of home or belonging. She missed the language and culture of her home. It was then that she discovered the Literacy Center's citizenship classes. She knew she had to become a citizen and learn about America's history to fully feel at home, and so she gave her best in every class. She dove into the rich history of the United States, and became comfortable with the 100 questions that help future citizens prepare for the citizenship exam. She finally felt like she understood the basics of American culture, history, and government.

This past summer, Yaina took the citizenship exam and passed. She states, "My children are so happy for me and for what I've done to get citizenship." Next year, Yaina and her son will vote for the first time together. She says with a smile, "My life has changed a lot. I am happy. Very, very happy!" ■