

2021

YOUTH SUCCESS STORIES



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

Provides various opportunities for education, training, and work-based learning through several activities, services, and programs that assist youth with job readiness and prepare youth for the workforce.

Meet Miguel

Miguel, an unemployed 21-year-old, was enrolled in the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy at Aims Community College. Miguel received a full scholarship for his tuition, but he needed the financial support for supplies, uniform, gear, payment for the POST exam, and transportation costs that estimated approximately \$2,500.00. Housing was also a concern for Miguel as he stayed with his friend's parents. Employment Services of Weld County (ESWC) Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) case managers were contacted to assist any eligible participant in the POST program with the funding from the Reskilling, Upskilling, Next Skilling (RUN) program. Miguel obtained the supplies, uniform, and gear needed to take and pass his POST exam confidently. ESWC assisted with transportation vouchers to travel to and from the remaining classes, his POST exam, and to pre-employment activities. There were additional equipment needs for work and the RUN program was able to assist in preparing Miguel for employment. At POST Academy Graduation, Miguel was awarded the Director's Award, which is given to those who have shown outstanding determination, skills, attitude, leadership, and teamwork. Shortly after, Miguel shared that he accepted a Law Enforcement Officer position within Weld County which he started in December 2021. Miguel's department requires him to live within a short mile radius of the town he is employed. His Case Manager referred him to apply for Emergency Rental Assistance through the Department of Human Services, which assisted with his deposit and the first month of rent.

Meet Guadalupe

Guadalupe, a recent high school graduate and single mother at the age of 18, came into ESWC to receive assistance with finding a short-term medical training program. She needed a program to allow her to work Monday – Friday while her child was in school, with evenings off to bond with her child. Upon graduating, Guadalupe was awarded scholarships totaling \$1,340.00; however, that was not enough to cover many short-term programs. As a first-generation high school graduate, she wanted to be the first

post-secondary graduate, too. Guadalupe had significant barriers such as being a single parent, an English Language Learner, and low-income. Guadalupe met with a Case Manager at ESWC who completed a comprehensive assessment and felt it best to enroll Guadalupe into the WIOA Youth Program to receive assistance with career exploration, enrollment into courses, and eventually educational obtainment. Guadalupe knew that she desired the medical field and in high school received a concurrent enrollment opportunity into a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course. Although she passed the course, she never pursued the state exam because that occupation was her family's dream, not her own. Instead, she desired to work in the Dental Industry, which aptitude and interest assessments proved. Guadalupe and her case manager used her scholarship money and WIOA funds to pay for the remaining cost of tuition for her Dental Assistant Certificate. She started an accelerated course in September 2021 and successfully completed the program by the last Saturday in October, just 8 weeks later! By November 22nd she found full-time employment, earning \$16.50 per hour. She accomplished finding a work-life balance in the industry she desired.



INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN HEALTHCARE? ESWC CAN PAY FOR YOUR TRAINING!

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) is the number 1 posted job qualification in the healthcare industry within Weld County. After completing a 6-week course, you could be earning an average wage of \$15.10/hour!

Nurse aides help nurses deliver quality and compassionate patient care in hospitals, home healthcare, or long-term care settings. The CNA program also offers an excellent opportunity to prepare for other healthcare careers, including nursing, radiologic technology, clinical medical assisting and surgical technology.



Meet Lucas

Lucas, 16 years old, struggled in a traditional school setting. His mother stated that he started having issues in the second grade and interventions were put into place with a 504 plan; Lucas did not respond as planned. As he grew older, family members encouraged his mom to keep Lucas in school and continue working towards his diploma; however, Lucas barely held on. He desired a career in Welding and even applied to a program in Wyoming and didn't want to go through the traditional high school route to get there. Lucas's mother called ESWC to discuss the High School Equivalency (HSE). She was concerned and knew her son needed help. She talked with a Youth Case Manager about options and was reassured that her son's behavior was not at fault for lack of success that he seemed to be a non-traditional student. This Case Manager suggested Lucas come in to take the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) assessment where his academic levels could be evaluated and determine what steps were needed to obtain an HSE. Lucas completed the TABE on November 2nd, enrolled in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program on November 19th, and obtained his HSE on December 15th. Lucas is a very bright individual who required no study time in the ESWC Assessment and Learning Center. He has applied for post-secondary enrollment in the State of Wyoming and has been accepted starting in 2023 after his 18th birthday. Lucas plans to work full-time in 2022 and enjoy spending time with his family before leaving the nest. Mom is very grateful that her son has successfully completed this chapter in life and can look forward to his future in the Welding industry.

WANT TO EARN YOUR GED? ESWC CAN HELP YOU PREPARE AND PAY FOR YOUR TEST!

ESWC has helped over 290 individuals earn their High School Equivalency (HSE), often referred to as a GED, in the last 5 years. We host a graduation ceremony to help graduates and their families celebrate their achievements each year.

An actual state-issued diploma gives you access to more jobs, advanced workplace training, and higher education. It's accepted as an equivalent to a high school diploma by about 97% of colleges and universities in the U.S. and 95% of employers, including the military, the government, and police departments.



Meet Nahelly

Nahelly found out she was pregnant shortly before receiving her high school diploma four years ago. Now, a single mother to a preschool-aged daughter, she is ready to pursue a short-term post-secondary education. First, there were barriers Nahelly needed to address: (1) she had no savings to pay tuition (2) financial aid, such as the Pell grant, was not available for short-term certificate programs, and (3) her previous work history in the cosmetology industry had no relation to the medical industry she was pursuing. Nahelly met with an ESWC Youth Programs Case Manager who completed the initial assessment and found extremely positive traits about Nahelly, such as knowing current labor market information for her chosen industry and having exceptional problem-solving skills. The past four years of Nahelly being a single mother has assisted in her resiliency and grit. The two discussed enrolling into the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program to address the funding for tuition issues.



Through soft skill assessments and job shadowing, Nahelly narrowed down what position she desired to have in the medical industry, which was Dental Assisting. ESWC's training committee approved Nahelly to receive the full amount of tuition at the local Dental Assistant training provider. Nahelly started training in mid-February 2021 successfully obtained her Dental Assisting Certificate, paired with Radiology and CPR Certified, two months later. Funds were then braided with the WIOA Adult Program to provide Nahelly a work experience in the Dental industry. After working for a local dental clinic for 2.5 months, Nahelly was hired on permanently! Nahelly shifted from her dead-end job at a local barbershop to a lifetime career in 4.5 months!

JOIN THE FIELD OF DENTAL ASSISTANTS, ESWC CAN PAY FOR YOUR TRAINING!

Earn a Dental Assistant diploma through a 40-week program. After completing the courses, a 5-week externship, and passing the Registered Dental Assistant Exam, you could be earning an average wage of \$17.26/hour!

Dental Assisting is ideal for individuals who are interested in delivering patient care and working in the healthcare field. During training, students learn the clinical skills and administrative tasks that take place in a dental office, oral surgery center, or public healthcare facility.



Meet Yadira

Yadira, an 18-year-old, low-income high school senior, was one semester away from graduation. She was a fantastic student and talented athlete who feared post-graduation, as she had no employment history. She was made aware that she could earn school elective credits for every 75 hours of employment she completed. The problem was finding a job and a company to work for that would understand her high school and athletic schedule. Yadira was referred to ESWC by her high school counselor. After an initial assessment, a Youth Programs Case Manager found that Yadira met all eligibility requirements for the WIOA Youth Program and enrolled her to receive services. The mission was to find the perfect work placement site for Yadira as she lacked experience and was hesitant to be placed at the typical youth employment sites such as the food and retail industries. She desired a slower pace environment with less customer-facing interaction, along with an employer who would understand her to need to work evenings and weekends so she could attend school during the day. A few days after enrollment into the Youth Program, Yadira was placed in a work experience position at the local library administration office. She worked independently a few hours each day after school trying to salvage damaged books and doing data entry to record inventory. She worked a total of 98 hours before the end of her last semester in high school and was able to earn half a school credit for the time she worked. In addition, Yadira was paid \$12.32 per hour and could start saving for her transition to post-secondary education at the local university. Most importantly, Yadira, a graduate of 2021, gained employment skills and work ethic during her first experience in the workforce and can now carry those lessons, such as stress tolerance and time management, into future positions.

Our programs can help prepare young adults for the workforce through one-on-one meetings with a case manager. To learn more about our programs, visit eswc.org or call (970) 353-3800

Employment Services of Weld County

315 N. 11th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 353-3800

Veterans and eligible spouses are entitled to priority access to Department of Labor-funded programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Dial 711 for Relay Services. Employment Services of Weld County is an equal opportunity program and employer. Paid for by WIOA.